

TODAY

The New York Times

INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY**Aruba****TODAY**On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Monday, February 25, 2013

A security official stands guard at the scene of a suicide car bomb attack which killed and injured several people at the National Directorate of Security in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, Sunday, Feb 24, 2013.

Associated Press

Afghanistan: U.S. special forces must leave province

PATRICK QUINN

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan's president ordered all U.S. special forces to leave a strategically important eastern province within two weeks because of allegations that Afghans working with them are torturing and abusing other Afghans.

The decision Sunday seems to have surprised the coalition and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, a separate command. Americans have frequently angered the Afghan public over issues ranging from Qurans burned at a U.S. base to allegations of civilian killings. "We take all allegations of misconduct seriously and go to great lengths to determine the facts surrounding them," the U.S. forces said in a statement.

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National Governors Association Chairman Gov. Jack Markell of Delaware, left, with Vice Chairman Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma speaks during a news conference at the NGA Winter Meeting in Washington, Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013.

Associated Press

Automatic budget cuts come under fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — The automatic budget cuts set to take hold this week were roundly condemned Sunday as the Obama administration and congressional Republicans bickered over who's to blame for the failure to reach a deal to stave off the \$85 billion reduction in government services that threatens the fragile economic recovery. The grim picture is emerging as the White House and lawmakers count down the days until the government is forced to make drastic cuts in domestic and de-

fense spending with hardly any leeway to save some programs from the budget knife. This would affect everything from commercial flights to meat inspections. The Obama administration upped the pressure Sunday evening by releasing state-by-state reports on the impact of the looming budget cuts in an effort designed to get hold-out lawmakers to compromise or face unhappy constituents. The so-called sequester now approaching was never supposed to hap-

pen. It was designed as an unpalatable fallback, to take effect only in case a specially established bipartisan congressional supercommittee failed to come up with \$1 trillion or more in savings from government programs.

Obama has not been able to find success for his balanced approach of reducing deficits through a combination of targeted savings and tax increases. Obama has proposed closing tax loopholes that benefit the wealthiest Americans and corporations.

"Unfortunately, it appears that Republicans in Congress have decided that instead of compromising — instead of asking anything of the wealthiest Americans — they would rather let these cuts fall squarely on the middle class," Obama said on Saturday, in his last weekly radio and Internet address before the deadline but unlikely to be his final word on the subject.

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Budget Cuts

Continued from Front Page

"We just need Republicans in Washington to come around," Obama added. "Because we need their help to finish the job of reducing our deficit in a smart way that doesn't hurt our economy or our people."

House Republicans have said reduced spending needs to be the focus and have rejected the president's demand to include higher taxes as part of a compromise. They say legislation passed in early January already raises taxes on the wealthiest Americans to generate an estimated \$600 billion for the Treasury over a decade. With Friday's deadline nearing, few in the U.S. capital were optimistic that a realistic compromise could be found. Instead of dealing with the problem at hand, both sides made assigning blame for the sequester a priority as the clock ticked down.

Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri said there was little hope to dodge the cuts "unless the Republicans are willing to compromise and do a balanced approach."

No, it's the Democrats who are to blame, Republicans countered.

"The reason there is no agreement is because there's no leadership from the president on actually recognizing what the problem is," said Oklahoma Republican Sen. Tom Coburn.

If Congress does not step in, a top-to-bottom series of cuts will be spread across domestic and defense agencies in a way that would fundamentally change how government serves its people.

Obama senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer told reporters that the Republicans are "so focused on not giving the president another win" that they will cost thousands of jobs. To back up their point, the White House released state-by-state tallies for how many dollars and jobs the bud-

get cuts would mean to each state.

And those cuts will hurt. The cuts would lead to furloughs for hundreds of thousands of government workers and contractors. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said the cuts would harm the readiness of U.S. fighting forces. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said travelers could see delayed flights. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said 70,000 fewer children from low-income families would have access to pre-kindergarten Head Start early education programs. And furloughed meat inspectors could leave plants idled.

The White House was ready with state-by-state reports designed to get hold-out lawmakers to compromise or face unhappy constituents. The numbers compiled from federal agencies and the White House's budget office are based only on the \$85 billion in cuts for this fiscal year, from March to September, that are set to take effect Friday.

White House officials said Ohio, Republican House Speaker John Boehner's home state, would be hit hard: \$25.1 million in education spending and another \$22 million for students with disabilities. Some 2,500 children from low-income families would also be removed from Head Start programs.

Officials also said their analysis showed Kentucky would lose \$93,000 in federal funding for a domestic abuse program, meaning 400 fewer victims being served in Senator Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's home state.

Some governors said the budget impasse was just the latest crisis in Washington that is keeping businesses from hiring and undermining the ability of state leaders to develop their own spending plans.

"It's senseless and it doesn't need to happen," said Maryland's Democratic Gov. Martin O'Malley, during the annual meeting of the National Governors Association this weekend. "This really threatens to hurt a lot of families in our state



President Barack Obama pauses as he speaks about the sequester, accompanied by emergency responders, a group of workers the White House says could be affected if state and local governments lose federal money as a result of budget cuts, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, in the South Court Auditorium of the Eisenhower Executive Office building on the White House complex in Washington.

Associated Press

and kind of flat line our job growth for the next several months."

The budget cuts were all but certain to come up when Obama dines with the governors Sunday evening at the White House. But time is running out and hope is waning.

Sen. John McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee, called the looming defense cuts "unconscionable" and urged Obama to call lawmakers to the White House or the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, for a last-minute budget summit.

"I won't put all the blame all on the president of the United States. But the president leads. The president should

be calling us over somewhere — Camp David, the White House, somewhere — and us sitting down and trying to avert these cuts," McCain said.

LaHood, who served as a Republican representing Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives, urged his colleagues to watch "Lincoln," Steven Spielberg's film about President Abraham Lincoln's political skills. "Everybody around here ought to go take a look at the 'Lincoln' movie, where they did very hard things by working together, talking together and compromising," LaHood said. "That's what's needed here."

But there are few signs of urgency among congressional leaders, who have

recently indicated their willingness to let the cuts take effect and stay in place for weeks, if not much longer. The sequester cuts, with few exceptions, are designed to hit all accounts equally. The law gives Obama little leeway to ease the pain. Even if granted flexibility to apply the cuts with more discretion — a legislative step Republicans say they might pursue — White House officials say that would still require severe reductions.

McCaskill and Coburn appeared on "Fox News Sunday." McCain was interviewed on CNN's "State of the Union." LaHood spoke with CNN and NBC's "Meet the Press." Duncan spoke to CBS' "Face the Nation." □

Senate panel plans Tuesday vote on Lew nomination

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee says the committee will vote Tuesday on the nomination of former White House chief of staff Jack Lew to be treasury secretary.

Democratic Sen. Max Baucus of Montana says Lew has answered the committee's questions "in a thorough and fully transparent manner" and the committee has conducted a "thorough review" of the nominee. □

Lew would succeed Timothy Geithner in President Barack Obama's second-term Cabinet.

Some of the toughest questions he faced during his confirmation hearing dealt with his short time at Citibank. Lew was a top executive during the height of the financial crisis.

On policy matters, he addressed Europe's debt crisis, U.S.-China relations and the 2010 financial regulatory overhaul. □

Volunteers in Newtown hand-writing thank you notes

PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Connecticut

(AP) — Some letters come from church groups, others from parents who have lost children of their own. One came from a police officer who responded to the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. They're some of the estimated 175,000 cards and letters of support and condolences that have poured into Newtown from around the world since December's massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and volunteers are working to preserve them and say thank you to as many senders as they can, one handwritten note at a time.

The archiving project is the brainchild of resident Yolie Moreno, who said she was floored to see the trays and trays of letters lining the walls of the town's municipal building after the mass shooting, many containing artwork or the thoughts of schoolchildren.

One that particularly touched her was a child's watercolor painting, with "You don't know how strong you are until being STRONG is the only option you have," written over it in magic marker.

"It's incredible, incredible stuff," she said.

"And I imagine everyone who sent something would like to know that it was held, read, touched, photographed and shared." With the permission of town officials, Moreno and a handful of other volunteers have begun photographing as much of it as they can.

"Tray by tray, we'd take the letters out of the envelopes and photograph them, sometimes as a group, sometimes single letters, and try to motor through as much as we could," Moreno said.

"We are trying just to document the outpouring from around the world."

The letters were boxed this week and taken to a storage unit, where Moreno and her team will continue to have access to them.

Once they are archived, the plan is to incinerate all of the items and use the ashes to help create concrete for whatever memorial to the shooting victims is built, she said.

Moreno said it's not clear what will be done with the digital photographs. She would like to create a website where the public could view them online.

"The victims' families, I know, many of them are not ready to see all this stuff yet," she said.

"A lot of people aren't ready.

But maybe later down the road, maybe they will want to see it. And the only way they would be able to is if somebody documented it."

One side benefit, she said, is the group has found checks or other gifts in the mail that were overlooked earlier. Those were handed over to the town or charities to which they are addressed.

Meanwhile, another group, the Newtown Volunteer Task Force,

has begun answering some of that mail.

The organization, which is coordinating all the volunteer work being done for Newtown, created thank-you cards that read in part, "Your voice has been heard and your caring is deeply appreciated."

Under that printed message, a volunteer includes one or two handwritten lines to let the recipient know that their letter was read.

Volunteers are going through letters and picking out ones that touch them personally, said Robin Fitzgerald, a task force organizer.

Because the task force has no budget, the volunteers are asked to bring their own stamps.

"It's another exercise in healing for our town, to recognize all the love that was sent from literally everywhere," she said. "So we would just like to send as much of that back as we can."

Renee Berger, 60, lives in neighboring Monroe and



In this Friday, Feb. 22, 2013 photo, volunteers in the Newtown Volunteer Task Force write personalized messages back to condolences received around the world in Newtown, Conn.

Associated Press

volunteers at the center. She says she's answered letters from parents and grandparents who have lost children of their own to cancer or some other tragedy, and many church groups.

She said one of the most touching and emotional was from a police officer in Oklahoma City, who talked about responding to the bombing at the federal building there in 1995, and wanted to send his love to Newtown's first responders. "We have a box of tissues on the table because you can't read these letters

without reacting," she said. Fitzgerald acknowledged the group likely will only be able to respond to a fraction of the correspondence but said the project is open-ended,

and the more volunteers the group gets, the more thank-you notes they will be able to write.

One of the thank-you cards was sent to Beloit High School in Wisconsin, where students in Megan Miller's English class had each made personal sympathy cards.

In her thank you note, volunteer Nancy Roznicki

wrote, "Your colorful cards with messages of peace and love and your prayers help with our healing. All 'one of a kind!'"

Melissa Badger, as spokeswoman for the Beloit school district,

said they were amazed that someone took the time to respond.

"To find out that yes, they were received and appreciated reinforces that lesson to these students that you can make a difference, you can maybe make things better and the effort is definitely worth it," she said. □

Gibbs: I was told not to acknowledge existence of drone program

Robert Gibbs, President Barack Obama's former press secretary, says that he was once instructed by the White House not to acknowledge the administration's use of drones.

"When I went through the process of becoming press secretary, one of the first things they told me was, you're not even to acknowledge the drone program," Gibbs said on MSNBC's "Up With Chris Hayes" on Sunday. "You're not even to discuss that it exists." Or, to paraphrase an oft-quoted line from David Fincher's 1999 film "Fight



Club": The first rule of the drone program is you do not talk about the drone program. Gibbs, who was recently hired by MSNBC as a contributor, called the proposition "inherently crazy." "You're being

asked a question based on reporting of a program that exists," Gibbs, who served as White House press secretary from 2009 to 2011, said. "So you're the official government spokesperson acting as if the entire program—pay no attention to the man behind the curtain." Obama's former spokesman said that while the administration has recently expressed the need to be more transparent about its use of drones, certain aspects of that program are "highly sensitive" and will likely remain secret. □

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Can escape clause save voting rights provision?

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration and civil rights groups are defending a key section of the landmark voting rights law at the Supreme Court by pointing reformed state, county and local governments to an escape hatch from the law's strictest provision.

The Voting Rights Act effectively attacked persistent discrimination at the polls by keeping close watch, when it comes to holding elections, on those places with a history of preventing minorities from voting. Any changes, from moving a polling place to redrawing electoral districts, can't take effect without approval from the Justice Department or federal judges in Washington.

But the Voting Rights Act allows governments that have changed their ways to get out from under this humbling need to get permission through a "bailout provision." Nearly 250 counties and local jurisdictions have done so; thousands more could be eligible based on the absence of recent discriminatory efforts in voting.

The viability of the bailout option could play an outsized role in the Supreme Court's consideration of the voting rights law's prior approval provision, although four years ago, conservative Justice Clarence Thomas said the prospect of bailing out had been "no more than a mirage." The court will hear arguments Wednesday in the case, which is among the term's most important, in a challenge from Shelby County, Ala.

Opponents of the law say they no longer should be forced to live under oversight from Washington because the country has made enormous racial progress, demonstrated most recently by the re-election of President Barack Obama. They object in particular to the 40-year-old formula by which some jurisdictions, most in the Deep South,



This July 27, 2006 file photo shows President George W. Bush signing legislation for a 25 year extension of the Voting Rights Act on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

are swept under the law and others remain outside it. The administration and its allies acknowledge that there has been progress. But they say minority voters still need the protection the law affords from efforts to reduce their influence at the polls. Last year, federal judges in two separate

cases blocked Texas from putting in place a voter identification law and congressional redistricting plan because they discriminated against black and Hispanic residents.

Obama himself talked about the case in a radio interview last week. He told SiriusXM host Joe Madison that if the law were stripped of its advance approval provision, "it would be hard for us to catch those things up front to make sure that elections are done in an equitable way."

Also, the law's defenders say places that have changed their ways can win release from having to get Washington's blessing for election changes. Governments seeking to exit have to show that they and the smaller jurisdictions within their borders have had a clean record, no evidence of discrimination in voting, for the past 10 years.

Shelby County has never asked to be freed from the

law, but would seem to be ineligible because one city in the county, Calera, defied the voting rights law and prompted intervention by the Bush Justice Department.

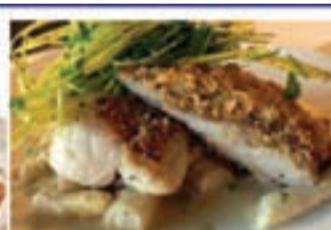
Yet places with a long, well-known history of discrimination probably could find their way out from under federal monitoring, according to a prominent voting rights lawyer who used to work for the Justice Department.

"Birmingham, Ala., where they used to use fire hoses on people, may well be eligible to bail out," said the lawyer, Gerry Hebert. Birmingham officials said they've never considered asking.

The Supreme Court made clear its skepticism about the ongoing need for the law when it heard a similar case in 2009. "Past success alone, however, is not adequate justification to retain the preclearance requirements," Chief Justice John Roberts said for the court.



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2nd blizzard bearing down on Plains region

Associated Press

DODGE CITY, Kan. (AP)

— A second major winter storm was bearing down on the central Plains Sunday, forcing cancellations and sending public works crews scrambling for salt and sand supplies less than a week after another system dumped more than a foot of snow on parts of the region.

National Weather Service officials in Kansas issued blizzard warnings and watches through late Monday ahead of the strong storm system that's packing snow and high winds. The storm has been tracking across western Texas toward Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri.

"We're expecting more wind with this storm," said Jeff Johnson, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Dodge City, Kan. "Snow amounts are varying, but we could see upward of a foot across south-central Kansas with lesser amounts across west-central and central Kansas."

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback amended the state of emergency declaration he signed last week to include the new storm.

"This storm has the potential to be more dangerous than last week's storm," said Brownback, who held a briefing Sunday night along with emergency officials in his state to warn residents about the weather. He urged motorists to "stay off the road unless it's absolutely critical" but said drivers who must travel should pack their charged cellphones and emergency kits containing food, water, blankets, road flares and shovels.

The region was hit by a massive storm last week that dumped a foot of snow in some sections, closed airports and caused numerous accidents.

"It would have been nice if we'd had a few days to recover, to do some equipment rehab," Joe Pajor, deputy director of public works in Wichita, Kan., told The Wichita Eagle. The city saw its second-highest

snowfall ever Thursday with 14.2 inches.

Other totals from the Thursday snowstorm included 18 inches in the southern Kansas town of Zenda, 17 inches in Hays, Kan., about 13 inches in northeast Missouri and 12 inches of snow in parts of Kansas City.

Steve Corfidi, meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said the storm also will affect southern states and could spawn tornadoes Tuesday in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Georgia.

"It definitely will be one of the more significant events of the season, the winter season, absolutely," Corfidi told The Associated Press. "Both in winter weather and severe weather potential, and rain, down in the southeast United States."

More than a foot of snow is possible from the Texas Panhandle, across the Oklahoma Panhandle and into Kansas and possibly Missouri as the storm moves eastward from the southwestern United States.

While snowfall is expected to taper off by Monday afternoon, wind gusts of up to 35 mph will remain a hazard, said Sarah Johnson, a meteorologist in the National Weather Service's Amarillo, Texas, office.

Pajor told the Wichita newspaper the new storm "looks worse than the last one" and that sand and salt supplies are low because of last week's record storm, as are the number of locations where snow can be transported off city streets.

He said the plowing strategy for the new blizzard may have to involve plowing snow into the center of arterial streets, and cutting traffic to one lane each direction.

He also said streets won't be treated with the city's limited sand and salt supplies until the snow ends and plowing is under way. The threat of the pending storm forced cancellations Sunday and Monday



in Kansas and Missouri, including the championship basketball tournament for the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Association, which rescheduled the tournament for Tuesday in Park City, Kan.

Matt Lehenbauer, emergency management di-

rector for Woodward County, Okla., said he expected rain or snow to begin there Sunday evening and forecast up to a foot of snow and wind gusts up to 50 miles per hour.

"We're expecting white-out conditions," he told the AP. □

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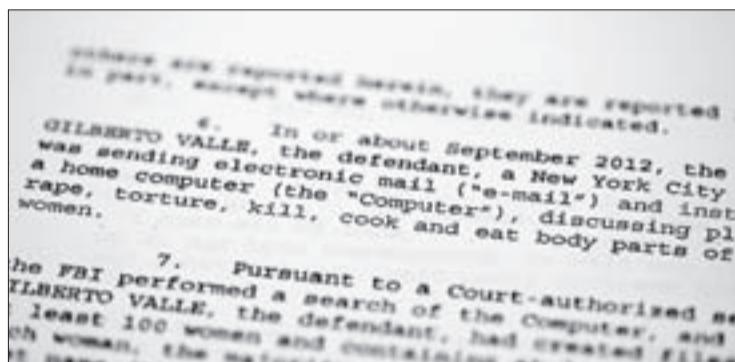
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Defense: NY cop a cannibal only in online fantasy



This Oct. 25, 2012 file photo shows a passage of a Federal complaint filed in New York, against New York City Police Department officer Gilberto Valle. Valle is accused of kidnapping conspiracy and admits to thinking about abducting, cooking and devouring young women. His own lawyer has shown prospective jurors a kinky staged photo of a woman trussed up in a roasting pan to test their tolerance for the officer's "weird proclivities."

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gilberto Valle's mind is full of sick thoughts — and he wants

a jury to know it. The New York City police officer accused of kidnapping conspiracy admits to thinking about abducting,

cooking and devouring young women. His own lawyer has shown prospective jurors a kinky staged photo of a woman trussed up in a roasting pan to test their tolerance for the officer's "weird proclivities." The baby-faced tabloid sensation known as the "Cannibal Cop" is even expected to take the stand to make the case that it was all fantasy, that his online chats were so offensive, so over-the-top that they couldn't possibly be taken seriously.

If jurors were to believe that the countless people who visit fetish chat rooms were real cannibals, then where's the horrific feeding frenzy?

It's a gambit that will begin to play out Monday with opening statements in one of the city's most bizarre federal court cases in recent memory.

Valle, a 28-year-old college graduate and father, was just another NYPD patrolman until late last year, when he was charged with conspiring to kidnap a woman and unauthorized use of a law enforcement database.

Beyond the tabloid headlines that blared "Finest Young Cannibal" and "Cook 'em Danno," the accusations were startling and serious: The FBI, following a tip from Valle's estranged wife, unearthed an alleged plot to cook and eat dozens of women, all graphically detailed in a trail of emails, computer files and instant messages. A conviction on the kidnapping count carries a possible life sentence.

"I'm planning on getting me some girl meat," he allegedly wrote in one chat room. "It's this November, for Thanksgiving. ... She's

not a volunteer. She has to be abducted."

Another purported target was an 18-year-old high school student who Valle wrote was "the most desirable piece of meat I've ever met" and was small enough to fit in his oven.

A criminal complaint claimed that Valle had created a computer file cataloging at least 100 women with their names, addresses and photos. And it accused him of illegally culling some of the information from the restricted law enforcement database, and doing surveillance on some of his potential victims.

A New Jersey man also was charged with scheming with Valle to kidnap, rape and murder a Manhattan woman and is awaiting trial. He too says he intended no harm.

At a bail hearing, prosecutors insisted Valle was a would-be killer who should be jailed without bail.

A judge agreed, calling the charges "profoundly disturbing" and "the most depraved, most dangerous conduct that can be imagined."

Rather than deny the depravity, Valle's defense attorney Julia Gatto immediately began mounting a defense to highlight it, to drive home the argument that Valle's only appetite was for fantasies.

"The government's case is nothing more than a hard drive full of disturbing, sexually deviant talk between my client and other men who share his, albeit weird, proclivities," she said.

The defense has been bolstered by pretrial rulings that will allow Valle's lawyers to call expert witnesses expected to give jurors a tutorial on online sexual

deviance and fetishes often called "vore," short for carnivore.

A clinical sexologist will testify about sexually explicit websites that "resemble improvisational theater," court papers say. "The style is to maintain the repartee, regardless of how implausible, ridiculous or even impossible the conversations get."

A forensic psychiatrist and criminologist who examined Valle and contends most men "who have sexually sadistic fantasies ... engage in no harmful actions toward others," the papers say.

The witness found that Valle has no serious mental illness or personality disorders related to violence. Instead, he says, the defendant has recurring fantasies of sexual sadism — a condition known as paraphilia.

The jury also will be shown the videotaped testimony of a Moscow man who created darkfetish.net.com. He's expected to testify that he modeled his website after Facebook so those with similar sexual fantasies could share their interests.

The site claims more than 38,000 members and cautions that it "is for all fantasies, not real death."

A 38-year-old member from the United States says in his profile that he enjoys "the thought of torturing girls in the most horrific ways."

I've been a freak since my early teens and I don't see this changing."

During jury selection, the defense quizzed candidates on whether they have a bias against people who frequent websites depicting sadomasochistic behavior. □

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Continued from page 1

Also Sunday, a series of attacks in eastern Afghanistan showed insurgents remain on the offensive even as U.S. and other international forces prepare to end their combat mission by the end of 2014. Suicide bombers targeted Afghanistan's intelligence agency and other security forces in four coordinated attacks in the heart of Kabul and outlying areas in a bloody reminder of the insurgency's reach nearly 12 years into the war.

Presidential spokesman Aimal Faizi said the decision to order the American special forces to leave Wardak province was taken during a meeting of the National Security Council because of the alleged actions of Afghans who are considered linked to the U.S. special forces. He said all special forces operations were to cease immediately in the restive province next to Kabul, which is viewed as a gateway to the capital and has been the focus of counter-insurgency efforts in recent years.

The Taliban have staged

numerous attacks against U.S.-led coalition forces in the province. In August 2011, insurgents shot down a Chinook helicopter, killing 30 American troops, mostly elite Navy SEALs, in Wardak. The crash was the single deadliest loss for U.S. forces in the war.

Afghan forces have taken the lead in many such special operations, especially so-called night raids.

"Those Afghans in these armed groups who are working with the U.S. special forces, the defense minister asked for an explanation of who they are," Faizi said. "Those individuals should be handed over to the Afghan side so that we can further investigate."

A statement the security council issued in English said the armed individuals have allegedly been "harrassing, annoying, torturing and even murdering innocent people."

Ceasing all such operations could have a negative impact on the coalition's campaign to go after Taliban leaders and commanders, who are usually the target of such operations.

Faizi said the issue had already been brought up with the coalition.

The U.S. statement said

only that the announcement was "an important issue that we intend to fully discuss with our Afghan counterparts. But until we have had a chance to speak with senior Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan officials about this issue, we are not in a position to comment further."

The brazen assaults, which occurred within a three-hour timespan, were the latest to strike Afghan forces, who have suffered higher casualties this year as U.S. and other foreign troops gradually take a back seat and shift responsibility for security to the government.

The deadliest attack occurred just after sunrise — a suicide car bombing at the gate of the National Directorate of Security compound in Jalalabad, 125 kilometers (78 miles) east of Kabul.

Guards shot and killed the driver but he managed to detonate the explosives-packed vehicle, killing two intelligence agents and wounding three others, according to a statement by the intelligence agency. Provincial government spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai confirmed the casualty toll and said the build-



Afghanistan presidential spokesman Aimal Faizi speaks during a press conference in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013. Afghanistan's president says all U.S. special forces must leave eastern Wardak province within two weeks because of allegations that Afghans working with them are torturing and abusing other Afghans.

Associated Press

ing was damaged in the attack.

A guard also shot and killed a man in an SUV filled with dynamite that was targeting an NDS building on a busy street in Kabul, not far from NATO headquarters. The explosives in the back of the vehicle were defused. Blood stained the driver's seat and the ground where security forces dragged out the would-be attacker.

Shortly before the Jalalabad attack, a suicide attacker detonated a mini-

van full of explosives at a police checkpoint in Pul-i-Alam on the main highway between Kabul and Logar province. One policeman was killed and two others were wounded, along with a bystander, according to the NDS.

Also in Logar province, which is due south of Kabul, a man wearing a suicide vest was stopped by police as he tried to force his way into the police headquarters for Baraki Barak district, said Din Mohammad Darwesh. □

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U.S. moves to salvage Syrian opposition talks

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. is frantically trying to salvage a Syrian opposition conference that John Kerry plans to attend this week during his first official overseas trip as U.S. secretary of state.

A senior Obama administration official said Sunday that Kerry has sent his top Syrian envoy to Cairo in hopes of convincing opposition leaders that their participation in the conference in Rome is critical to addressing questions from potential donors and securing additional aid from the United States and Europe.

Some members of the sharply divided Syrian Opposition Council are threatening to boycott Wednesday's meeting,

which is the centerpiece of Kerry's nine-nation tour of Europe and the Middle East.

According to the official, U.S. envoy Robert Ford will say that the conference is a chance for foes of Syrian President Bashar Assad to make their case for new and enhanced aid — and get to know America's new chief diplomat, who has said he wants to propose new ideas to pressure Assad into leave power.

The official was not authorized to discuss sensitive diplomatic matters publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

If the meeting with Kerry were to be postponed, the official said the delay would likely hurt chances for short-term boosts in U.S. aid or shifts in Syria policy, which is now focused on providing non-lethal and humanitarian assistance to the opposition.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, visits with the traveling media aboard a plane en route to London on his inaugural trip as secretary on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013.

Associated Press

The U.S. is concerned that the same kind of infighting that doomed the Syrian National Council may be hindering the SOC, the official said.

In addition to Ford's trip to Cairo, the top U.S. diplomat for the Mideast, Elizabeth Jones, planned to head to Rome on Monday to add her voice to the argument to opposition members there.

Kerry is on a self-described "listening tour" of Europe and the Mideast, chiefly focused on ending the crisis in Syria.

The former Democratic senator from Massachusetts has said he wants to discuss fresh proposals to ratchet up the pressure on Assad and make way for a democratic transition. Violence in Syria has killed at least 70,000 people.

Kerry has not elaborated

on those plans, but there is internal debate in the Obama administration about stepping up aid to the rebels, perhaps to include lethal military assistance.

Key to increasing pressure on Assad will be Russia, which has staunchly resisted efforts to push Assad out, to the increasing anger and frustration of the United States and its allies in Europe and the Middle East.

Kerry will meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the second stop of his trip, in Berlin on Tuesday, and hopes to get a better idea of what Moscow may be willing to support. However, two officials traveling with Kerry said they did not expect any breakthroughs in the German capital.

In London, his first stop, Kerry was expected to be

asked by the British about the administration's views on Britain's dispute with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. London is looking to Washington to support a referendum next month

on the islands' future. Residents are expected to vote widely in favor of remaining part of Britain.

Senior officials traveling with Kerry would not discuss possible outcomes or the vote, and the U.S. position remains that it is up to Britain and Argentina to work out a resolution. Argentina claims the islands as the Islas Malvinas.

Britain asserted control of the South Atlantic islands by placing a naval garrison there in 1833.

Britain and Argentina fought a brief war in 1982 after Argentina invaded the islands. More than 900 people died, most of them

Argentines.

After Britain and Germany, Kerry's 10-day trip will take him to France, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

In addition to Syria, he will focus on conflicts in Mali and Afghanistan, and on Iran's nuclear program.

In Germany, Kerry will discuss trans-Atlantic issues with German youth in Berlin, where he spent time as a child as the son of an American diplomat posted to the divided Cold War city.

In Paris, Kerry plans to discuss France's intervention in Mali.

Despite the numerous Middle East stops, Kerry will not travel to Israel or the Palestinian territories. He will wait to visit them when he accompanies Obama there in March. □

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Raul Castro gets new term, says it will be last

PETER ORSI
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Raul Castro announced Sunday that he will step down as Cuba's president in 2018 following a final five-year term, for the first time putting a date on the end of the Castro era. He tapped rising star Miguel Diaz-Canel as his top lieutenant and first in the line of succession. The 81-year-old Castro also said he hopes to establish two-term limits and age caps for political offices including the presidency — an astonishing prospect for a nation led by Castro or his older brother Fidel since the 1959 revolution.

The 52-year-old Diaz-Canel is now a heartbeat from the presidency and has risen higher than any other Cuban official who didn't directly participate in the heady days of the revolution. "This will be my last term," Castro said, his voice firm.

In his 35-minute speech, Castro hinted at other changes to the constitution, some so dramatic that they will have to be ratified by the Cuban people in a referendum. Still, he scotched any idea that the country would soon abandon socialism, saying he

had not assumed the presidency in order to destroy Cuba's system.

"I was not chosen to be president to restore capitalism to Cuba," he said. "I was elected to defend, maintain and continue to perfect socialism, not destroy it." Castro fueled interest in Sunday's legislative gathering after mentioning on Friday his possible retirement and suggesting lightheartedly that he had plans to resign at some point. It's now clear that he was dead serious when he promised that Sunday's speech would have fireworks, and would touch on his future in leadership.

Cuba is at a moment of "historic transcendence," Castro told lawmakers in speaking of his decision to name Diaz-Canel to the No. 2 job, replacing the 81-year-old Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, who fought with the Castros in the Sierra Maestra.

Castro said that Diaz-Canel's promotion "represents a definitive step in the configuration of the future leadership of the nation through the gradual and orderly transfer of key roles to new generations."

Since taking over from Fidel in 2006, Castro has in-

stituted a slate of important economic and social changes, expanding private enterprise, legalizing a real estate market and relaxing hated travel restrictions. Still, the country remains ruled by the Communist Party and any opposition to it lacks legal recognition. Castro has mentioned term limits before, but he has never said specifically when he would step down, and the concept has yet to be codified into Cuban law. If he keeps his word, Castro will leave office no later than 2018. Cuban-American exiles in the United States have waited decades for the end of the Castro era, although they will likely be dismayed if it ends on the brothers' terms.

Nevertheless, the promise of a change at the top could have deep significance for U.S.-Cuba ties. The wording of Washington's 51-year economic embargo on the island specifies that it cannot be lifted while a Castro is in charge.

Fidel Castro is 86 and retired, and has appeared increasingly frail in recent months. He made a surprise appearance at Sunday's gathering, receiving a thunderous ovation



Cuba's President Raul Castro, right, and brother Fidel Castro attend the opening session of the National Assembly in Havana, Cuba, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2012.

Associated Press

from lawmakers. Some analysts have speculated that the Castros would push a younger member of their family into a top job, but there was no hint of that Sunday. While few things are ever clear in Cuba's hermetically sealed news environment, rumblings that Diaz-Canel, an electrical engineer by training and ex-minister of higher education, might be in line for a senior post have grown. In recent weeks, he has frequently been featured on state television news broadcasts in an apparent attempt to raise

his profile. He also traveled to Venezuela in January for the symbolic inauguration of Hugo Chavez, a key Cuban ally who had been re-elected president but was too ill to be sworn in.

Lawmakers also named to the ruling Council of State Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Castro's previous first vice president; comptroller general Gladys Bejerano; second Vice President Ramiro Valdes; Havana Communist Party secretary Lazara Mercedes Lopez Acea; and Salvador Valdes Mesa, head of Cuba's labor union. □

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Prisoner's death stokes fears of third uprising

KARIN LAUB

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— The mysterious death of a 30-year-old Palestinian gas station attendant in Israeli custody stoked new West Bank clashes Sunday, along with Israeli fears of a third Palestinian uprising.

A senior Palestinian official alleged that Arafat Jaradat was tortured by Israel's Shin Bet security service, citing an autopsy he said revealed bruising and two broken ribs.

Israel's Health Ministry said the autopsy did not conclusively determine the cause of death, but that the bruising and broken ribs were likely the result of attempts to revive the detainee.

Jaradat's death came at a time of rising West Bank tensions, including several days of Palestinian marches in support of four hunger-striking prisoners in Israeli lockups. In all, Israel holds nearly 4,600 Palestinians, including dozens who have never been formally charged.

Frozen Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, the recent re-election of Israeli hard-line Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Palestinian cash crisis and the Palestinians' sense of being abandoned by the Arab world seem to have created fertile ground for a third Palestinian revolt. Over the weekend, Israel's army chief convened senior commanders to discuss



An Israeli soldier takes aim during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron, following the death of Arafat Jaradat, a Palestinian prisoner held in an Israeli jail, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013.

Associated Press

the growing unrest.

Jaradat's death "is liable to become the opening shot" in a third uprising, Israeli military commentator Alex Fishman wrote in the *Yediot Ahronot* daily Sunday, arguing that the "Palestinian street has been boiling with anger for a number of weeks now."

However, Israeli officials have previously expressed concern about a new uprising, only to see bursts of Palestinian protests fizzle.

The first uprising, marked by stone-throwing protests and commercial strikes, erupted in the late 1980s and led to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The second uprising broke out in

2000, after failed talks on a final peace deal, and it was far deadlier, with Israel reoccupying the West Bank after bombings and shootings.

In recent years, the West Bank has been relatively calm. Despite recent tensions, the Palestinian self-rule government has not broken off security coordination with Israel in their joint campaign against Islamic militants.

Palestinian activists also say they learned from the mistakes of the armed revolt a decade ago and are turning to more creative protests against Israel's 45-year rule over lands they want for a future state.

Former Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub, speaking in Hebrew on Israel Radio, tried to reassure Israelis, declaring Sunday "on behalf of the entire Palestinian leadership that there is no plan to lead to bloodshed." Jaradat, a father of two from the West Bank village of Saeer, died in Megiddo Prison in northern Israel on

Saturday, six days after his arrest on suspicion of stone throwing.

Jaradat's attorney, Kamil Sabbagh, said his client told an Israeli military judge Thursday during a hearing that he was being forced to sit for long periods during interrogation. The detainee also complained of back pain and seemed terrified to return to the Shin Bet lockup, although he did not have any apparent signs of physical abuse, Sabbagh said.

After the court hearing, the judge ordered Jaradat to be examined by a prison doctor.

The Shin Bet said that during interrogation, Jaradat was examined several times by a doctor who detected no health problems. On Saturday, he was in his cell and felt unwell after lunch, the agency said.

"Rescue services and a doctor were alerted and treated him," the statement said. But "they didn't succeed in saving his life." On Sunday, Israel's foren-

sics institute performed an autopsy attended by a physician from the Palestinian Authority.

After being briefed by the Palestinian physician, Issa Karake, the Palestinian minister of prisoner affairs, told a news conference late Sunday that Jaradat had suffered two broken ribs on the right side of his chest. The autopsy also showed bruises on Jaradat's back and chest.

Israeli officials initially said Jaradat apparently died of a heart attack, but Karake said the Palestinian physician told him there was no evidence of that.

Jaradat "faced harsh torture, leading to his immediate, direct death. Israel is fully responsible for his killing," Karake said.

Israel's Health Ministry said Jaradat did not suffer from disease and that it was not possible yet to determine his cause of death conclusively.

The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said the Shin Bet routinely holds detainees in isolation for extended periods during interrogation, keeping them in cells where the lights are never turned off.

Citing prisoner affidavits, B'Tselem spokeswoman Sarit Michaeli said physical mistreatment has dropped sharply in recent years but has not disappeared.

Detainees have filed some 700 complaints about mistreatment by Shin Bet agents in the past decade, but none has led to a criminal investigation, she said.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, Palestinians protesting Jaradat's death threw stones at Israeli troops in several locations Sunday, including the city of Hebron and at a checkpoint near the military's Ofer prison. □

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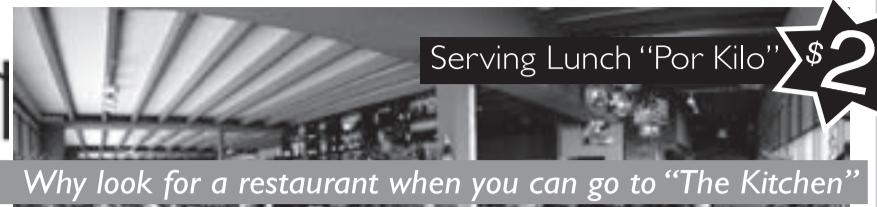
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Pistorius' brother facing culpable homicide charge

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

The family lawyer of Oscar Pistorius said on Sunday that the double amputee athlete's brother is facing a culpable homicide charge for a 2010 road death.

Lawyer Kenny Oldwage would not confirm details of the case Carl Pistorius is facing, but Sunday's development compounded problems for the family after Oscar was charged with premeditated murder in the Feb. 14 shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

Carl Pistorius was allegedly involved in a crash with a woman motorcyclist and he was supposed to be in court last Thursday, as his brother Oscar was facing a bail hearing, according to local media reports.

Oscar Pistorius was released on bail Friday and his brother Carl was seen

driving into the home of their uncle Arnold early Sunday in Waterkloof, a wealthy suburb of Pretoria, the nation's capital, where Oscar is now staying.

The problems surrounding his older brother Carl are the latest twist in a case that has transfixed South Africa and much of the world. Sunday's revelation of the culpable homicide charge immediately created a stir.

"It's also doubly sad because it's involved with Oscar and his brother and all the family — so they have double sort of trouble. So, not good," said Johannesburg resident Jim Plester.

Oscar Pistorius was charged with premeditated murder, but the athlete says he killed his girlfriend accidentally, opening fire after mistaking her for an intruder in his home.

The Pistorius family has yet to react to the accusations

that Carl is facing.

On Saturday, the family took steps to lower its profile on social media after someone hacked into the Twitter account of Carl. They cancelled all the social media sites for both Oscar's brother and his sister Aimee.

Carl has always been close to Oscar but was a notable absent when their uncle Arnold, flanked by Oscar's sister Aimee, read out a first reaction to the shooting on Feb. 17, even though he was also on the premises.

The three-story house where Pistorius is staying with his aunt and uncle lies on a hill with a sweeping view of Pretoria. It has a large swimming pool and an immaculate garden. Pistorius was born without fibula bones due to a congenital defect and his legs were amputated when he was 11 months old. He has run on carbon-fiber blades



In this Feb. 19, 2013 file photo, Carl Pistorius, right, and Henke Pistorius, the brother and father of Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius, charged with the shooting death of his girlfriend attend Oscar's bail hearing at the magistrate court in Pretoria, South Africa.

Associated Press

and was originally banned from competing against able-bodied peers because many argued that his blades gave him an unfair advantage. He was later cleared to compete. □

He is a multiple Paralympic medalist, but he failed to win a medal at the London Olympics, where he ran in the 400 meter race and on South Africa's 4x400 relay team. □

Zimbabwe says it has found funds for a referendum

ANGUS SHAW

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) —

Zimbabwe's broke coalition government says it has raised enough money privately to pay for a referendum on a new constitution scheduled March 16.

Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa said the vote, just three weeks away, "will not be stopped because of

lack of money," the state Sunday Mail newspaper reported. Chinamasa said the financing was "sourced locally" from commercial and business interests after the United Nations and possible outside donors weren't given enough time to contribute. The referendum date was announced a week ago.

The state election commis-

sion says it needs \$85 million for the vote ahead of national elections later in the year to end the nation's shaky coalition between President Robert Mugabe and the former opposition formed after the violent and disputed elections in 2008.

All coalition leaders have called for a 'Yes' vote on the new constitution.

Finance Minister Tendai Biti said the United Nations cited bureaucratic procedures preventing it from providing referendum money, adding "we submitted our budgets a bit late," the Sunday Mail reported.

"I think they are going to fund the actual election but this time (for the referendum) we are going it alone," the paper quoted

Biti saying. Biti is the third ranking official in Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's party. Presidential and parliamentary elections are expected to be held around July. Rights and democracy groups have called for a postponement of the referendum to give voters more time to study the 160-page draft constitution first published last Monday. □



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First female S. Korean president faces N. Korea crisis

FOSTER KLUG

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

Park Geun-hye became South Korea's first female president Monday, returning to the presidential mansion where she grew up with her dictator father. Park's last stint in the Blue House was bookended by tragedy: At 22, she cut short her studies in Paris to return to Seoul and act as President Park Chung-hee's first lady after an assassin targeting her father instead killed her mother; she left five years later after her father was shot and killed by his spy chief during a drinking party.

As president, Park will face stark divisions both in South Korean society and with rival North Korea, which detonated an underground nuclear device about two weeks ago. South Koreans worry about a growing gap between rich and poor, and there's pressure for her to live up to her campaign suggestion that she can return the country to the strong economic growth her strong-man father oversaw.

North Korea's atomic test will also present a challenge to her vow to soften Seoul's current hard-line approach to its northern rival.

Pyongyang, Washington, Beijing and Tokyo are all watching to see if Park pursues an ambitious engagement policy meant to ease five years of animosity on the divided peninsula or if she sticks with the tough stance of her fellow conservative predecessor, Lee Myung-bak.

Park's decision is important because it will likely set the tone of the larger diplomatic approach that



In this Feb. 22, 2013 photo, South Korean President-elect Park Geun-hye, left, listens to Deputy commander, Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command Gen. Kwon Oh-sung during her visit at the Combined Forces Command in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

Washington and others take in stalled efforts to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons ambitions.

Park technically took over as the clock struck midnight.

Her swearing-in ceremony later Monday was to be attended by tens of thousands, including dignitaries such as U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso. South Korean superstar PSY, who rose to surprising global fame last year with his song "Gangnam Style," was set to perform. Park's first weeks in office will be complicated by North Korea's warning of unspecified "second and third measures of greater intensity," a threat that comes as Washington and others push for tightened U.N. sanctions as punishment for the Feb. 12 atomic test, the North's third since 2006.

That test is seen as another step toward North Korea's goal of building a bomb small enough to be mounted on a missile that can hit the United States. The explosion, which Pyongyang called a response to U.S. hostility, triggered global outrage.

Park has said she won't yet change her policy, which was built with the high probability of provocations from Pyongyang in mind. But some aren't sure if engagement can work, given North Korea's choice of "bombs over electricity," as American scientist Siegfried Hecker puts it.

"Normalization of relations, a peace treaty, access to energy and economic opportunities — those things that come from choosing electricity over bombs and have the potential of lifting the North Korean people out of poverty and hardship — will be made much more difficult, if not impossible, for at least the next five years," Hecker, a

regular visitor to North Korea, said in a posting on the website of Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation.

As she takes office, however, Park will be mindful that many South Koreans are frustrated at the state of inter-Korean relations after the Lee government's five-year rule, which saw two nuclear tests, three long-range rocket launches and attacks blamed on North Korea that killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

Park's policy calls for strong defense but also for efforts to build trust through aid shipments, reconciliation talks and the resumption of some large-scale economic initiatives as progress occurs on the nuclear issue. Park has also held out the possibility of a summit with new North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Much is riding on Park's conclusion.

"The overall policy direction on North Korea among

the U.S., Japan and South Korea will be hers to decide," said Victor Cha, a former senior Asia adviser to President George W. Bush. "If Park Geun-hye wants to contain, the U.S. will support that. But if Park Geun-hye, months down the road, wants to engage, then the U.S. will go along with that too."

Her father was a staunch anti-communist who made no secret of his antipathy toward Pyongyang during his 18-year rule in the 1960s and '70s. In 1968, 31 North Korean commandos staged a failed raid on the Blue House that ended with nearly all of them dead. In 1974, Park's wife was shot and killed by a Japanese-born Korean claiming he was acting on assassination orders by North Korea founder and then leader Kim Il Sung. Critics say Park Geun-hye's North Korea policy lacks specifics. They also question how far she can go given her conservative base's strong anti-Pyongyang sentiments.

But Park has previously confounded ideological expectations. She travelled to Pyongyang in 2002 and held private talks with the late Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong Un, and her gifts to Kim Jong Il are showcased in a museum of gifts to the North Korean leaders. During the often contentious presidential campaign, she responded to liberal criticism by reaching out to the families of victims of her father's dictatorship. She said in her 2007 autobiography that she visited Pyongyang because she thought her painful experiences with the North made her "the one who could resolve South-North relations better than anyone else." □

Chavez opponents demand answers about his cancer

JORGE RUEDA

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Hundreds of government opponents demonstrated Saturday to demand answers about Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's condition while he remains out of sight in a hospital, undergoing treatment more than 10 weeks after his latest cancer surgery.

The protesters also condemned the government's most recent economic measures, which have included a devaluation of Venezuela's currency, the bolivar. Some held signs with a photo of Vice President Nicolas Maduro and a slogan saying the devaluation will mean "more inflation." Opposition leaders, though, mainly criticized the secrecy surrounding Chavez's diagnosis and treatment, saying many Venezuelans want the government to be more forthcoming about the president's condition.

"We came to say that this nation demands the truth," Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma said at the demonstration.

"Yesterday they were saying they had a five-hour meeting with the president. Nobody believes that.

Just two days earlier they excused themselves with President Evo Morales (of Bolivia), saying the president was resting due to his delicate state of health, and they didn't let him see him," Ledezma added.

Maduro said Friday night that he and other officials visited for about five hours with the president at the military hospital in Caracas where he is being treated. Chavez hasn't spoken publicly since before his Dec. 11 surgery, and has been seen only in several photographs released by the government.

Maduro said on television Saturday that Chavez remains in charge.

"There is only one commander in chief here. There is only one president," he said.

"Sooner rather than later, we will have our commander Chavez there, continuing in ... command of the Bolivarian Revolution," Maduro said, referring to the socialist movement the president has led during more than 14 years in office.

He said that although Chavez is breathing through a tracheal tube, which hinders speech, that doesn't prevent him from



A banner bearing a photo of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez is displayed on a building of the Carlos Arvelo Military Hospital in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Feb. 22, 2013. The government said that the country's ailing president was continuing unspecified medical treatments at the military hospital in Caracas. Chavez's sudden return to Venezuela after more than two months of cancer treatments in Cuba has fanned speculation that the president could be preparing to relinquish power and make way for a new election.

Associated Press

communicating with his aides in other ways and "giving us orders in writing." The government has not given details about the treatment Chavez is undergoing, and hasn't identified the type or exact location of the tumors that have been removed from his pelvic region.

Maduro said Chavez has been considering policy decisions together with other government officials, including "economic actions" that he said would be detailed in the coming days.

The vice president said the government is confronting "the bourgeoisie's eco-

nomic war" amid double-digit inflation and a currency that has continued to weaken in black market trading against the U.S. dollar. He criticized what he called an "attack on the currency," but didn't give details about the economic measures the government plans. □

Belgian killed in Mexico resort was businessman

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A Belgian citizen shot to death in the Pacific resort of Acapulco near the site of the Mexican Open tennis tournament was a resident businessman working for a transnational firm, local prosecutors in Mexico said Sunday. Saturday's killing was the second violent attack involving foreigners in Acapulco in less than three weeks. On Feb. 4, a band of masked gunmen invaded a beachfront home and raped six visiting Spanish women.

The Guerrero state district attorney's office identified the dead man as 59-year-old Jan Sarens, an executive with the family-owned Belgian firm Sarens, which supplies heavy transportation equipment for construction, mining and energy. It has of-



Emergency responders stand next to the body of a man identified as a Belgian citizen as he lies in the ground next to his car after he was shot dead by unknown assailants while he was leaving a supermarket in the Pacific resort city of Acapulco, Mexico, Saturday Feb. 23, 2013.

Associated Press

fices in 50 countries, including Mexico.

Celia Gomez, an attorney for the firm's Mexico office, said it had not identified the body. Gomez said the company had a board member named Jans Sarens who lived in Mexico.

The man was shot to death Saturday afternoon in a shopping center parking lot, and his body was found outside a Mercedes Benz car with Mexico City plates. Authorities in Guerrero state said in a statement that the killing was being investigated and the motive for the attack had still not been determined.

Violence and crime, much of it blamed on drug gangs, have grown worse in Acapulco in recent years. □



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Report: Chile's Pinochet wanted anti-vote violence



In this 1974 file photo, Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet speaks at an informal press conference in Santiago, Chile.

Associated Press

LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)

— Newly published U.S. documents indicate that Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet sought to use military force to annul the referendum portrayed in

the Oscar-nominated film "NO" that ended his brutal regime. The plan was rejected by his fellow generals, the papers say.

The formerly top-secret documents posted by the independent U.S. National

Security Archive on Friday also show U.S. officials warning Chilean leaders against violence if Pinochet tried to use force to stay in power.

Pinochet "planned to do whatever was necessary to stay in power" just a day

before the Oct. 5, 1988, referendum, according to a Defense Intelligence Agency document based on information from a Chilean air force officer.

"Pinochet reportedly told advisors: 'I'm not leaving, no matter what,'" the document said.

The documents also show that U.S. officials and agencies backed the anti-Pinochet campaign, even though the U.S. government had worked to undermine the socialist administration of President Salvador Allende that Pinochet overthrew in a 1973 coup and initially supported the new regime.

The papers portray Pinochet as furious after the vote results.

In a last attempt to retain power, the strongman who once compared himself to the greatest Roman emperors asked the members of the military junta to meet in his office in the presidential palace at 1:00 AM," says a report by the Defense Department titled: "Chile: plebiscite goes forward as Pinochet apparently loses." A CIA source at the meeting describes Pinochet as being "nearly apoplectic" about the results. "Pinochet was prepared on the night of 5 Oct to overthrow the results of the plebiscite," an informant said in a report by the State Department titled: "Chilean junta meeting the night of plebiscite."

Pinochet had a document prepared for other generals to sign and "spoke of using the extraordinary powers to have the armed forces seize the capital," says one of the reports by the Defense Department. But even his closest allies said no. The air force commander, Gen. Fernando Matthei, "told Pinochet he would under no circumstances agree to such a thing ... Pinochet then

turned to the others and made the same request and was turned down."

Losing all backing to overthrow the plebiscite, Pinochet accepted his defeat. The lead-up to that decision is depicted in "NO," which is up for an Academy Award as best-foreign language film on Sunday. The Chilean film is based on the publicity campaign that helped oust Pinochet and return Chile to democracy.

The general ruled Chile from 1973 to 1990. He died under house arrest, without ever being tried, despite charges of illegal enrichment and human rights violations.

"We negotiated with him because we were never able to judge him and Pinochet died a free man and a millionaire," said Pablo Larraín, director of "NO," in an interview last month with The Associated Press.

The film's July premiere in Santiago unsettled many audiences because Chile remains deeply divided over Pinochet's regime.

He shut down Congress, outlawed political parties and forced thousands of dissidents into exile, while his police tortured and killed thousands more. But loyalists saw him as a fatherly figure who oversaw Chile's growth into economic prosperity and kept it from becoming a failed socialist state.

"Given the entrenched and violent nature of Pinochet's dictatorship, the No Campaign's victory is all the more dramatic," said Peter Kornbluh, author of "The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability."

Forty years after the coup, Kornbluh said, "It is not only important to remember how he took power, but was forced to relinquish it." □



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Winners Galore at the Casino at the Radisson



Palm Beach – This weekend's happy winner at the Casino at the Radisson was

Joyce Benza, who won a generous \$1,200 jackpot on the Triple Double Dia-

monds slot machine. She is pictured here with her husband Ray Benza, giving



our camera a big winner's smile and 4 thumbs up. The Poker Room had its

share of winners too. Suet Lau, from New Jersey, landed \$2,638 when he was dealt a Royal Flush, shortly after midnight, Thursday morning.

The Casino at the Radisson makes more than just one jackpot available.

The Caribbean Stud Poker Jackpot currently stands on \$46,065,

while the Bingo Progressive available to all bingo players each Saturday & Sunday boasts \$28,832.

Aruba's most popular poker room, at the Casino at the Radisson offers a Bad Beat Jackpot of \$52,564. Additionally,

In March during Aruba's Nation Day weekend, the casino will be hosting three consecutive bingo marathons, on the 16th, the 17th, and the 18th, which is the island's Aruba Dag.

Orlando Vrolijk on the casino's marketing team reports that a great number of fun activities are scheduled for that holiday weekend, and the general public is invited. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Matt Kuchar chips onto the first green in the final round of play against Hunter Mahan during the Match Play Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

Kuchar wins Match Play Championship

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) — Matt Kuchar finally put Hunter Mahan in a hole and then answered every challenge Sunday to win the Match Play Championship.

Mahan had gone 169 holes over 11 matches without trailing in this wild tournament until Kuchar won the fourth hole of their championship match with a par, and Mahan never caught up. Kuchar took advantage of a series of miscues to build a 4-up lead at the turn, and then held off a noble challenge by the defending champion.

There was never a dull moment on the back nine. Only two holes were halved, and those were with birdies.

But for all the great shots, the match ended when Mahan went from a tough lie in the bunker to a bush in the desert, and it took him four shots to reach the 17th green.

Continued on Page 20



SPEED DEMON



Johnson wins Daytona 500 for second time

Jimmie Johnson celebrates after winning the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press
Page 19

Maze clinches WCup title and proves doubters wrong

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

MERIBEL, France (AP)—The way Tina Maze's season has been going, there was only one fitting way to wrap up the overall World Cup title

— with another victory, and with plenty of time to spare. Maze clinched her first Crystal Globe on Sunday by winning a super-combined race for eighth win of the season — capping a

dominant season by wrapping up the overall trophy with a full nine races to go. "It's really special, because it's so difficult to win. For me it's special to continue this level of skiing," Maze



Slovenia's Tina Maze speeds down the course on her way to win an alpine ski, women's world cup super-combined, in Meribel, France, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013.

Associated Press

said. "To be on the top is amazing. It's a great season for me. Even if there have been ups and downs I have always come back." To Maze, it was also the perfect response to her doubters back home in Slovenia, saying she had been mocked by some for having the audacity to dream about becoming the world's best skier.

"I think the people are realizing that the dream came true, that one year ago they were saying 'Ah, this Maze, she's making jokes when she says she will win a globe or something like that. Yeah, she's full of herself' and these kinds of things," Maze said. "In Slovenia, it's (the) mentality. It's better to be sometimes (more mainstream) than to go out (and be different) from the majority."

"I didn't want to be like everybody else, so I'm always looking for something else, something better, something different and I'm really proud of that."

Leading from the downhill section, Maze coasted home in the slalom after rival Maria Hoefl-Riesch crashed out of contention. The win tied her for most single-season podiums with Pernilla Wiberg of Sweden and Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein. "I'm an emotional person, I didn't want to cry (on the podium)," Maze said, adding that she felt sick before the slalom. "I went to the toilet six times before I started. A lot of people (were) sick and I guess I get something from them too." Maze has 1,844 points in the overall standings and looks all but cer-

tain to smash the all-time single-season record of 2,000 held by former Austrian great Hermann Maier on the men's side.

Hoefl-Riesch is second in the overall standings but is 958 points behind and has no chance of closing the gap. Each victory is worth 100 points.

Lindsey Vonn, the American four-time overall winner and defending champion, fell out of contention after she was forced to take a month-long break because of an intestinal illness and then suffered a season-ending knee injury at the world championships. Vonn is still third overall with 740 points.

"I'm really tired now, especially after a long day like today," the 29-year-old Maze said. "Today was so tough, I didn't know where I was, I almost went off the course twice. But I just managed to catch the gates. It's crazy."

Nicole Hosp of Austria, the world championship bronze medalist in super-combi, finished second, while countrywoman Michaela Kirchgasser took third place with a superb slalom run — 42.66 seconds compared to Maze's 44.26. "Kirchy came to me straight away and told me I'd won a globe, a big one," said Maze, who is also in contention to win all discipline titles. "My target is to be focused until the end of the season, because there are many small globes that are open and possible to get. I want to keep this level of skiing until the end, I don't want to go down, I want to keep it at the high level."

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Johnson wins 2nd Daytona 500; Patrick finishes 8th

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida

(AP) — Danica Patrick made history up front at the Daytona 500 Sunday, only to see Jimmie Johnson make a late push ahead of her and reclaim his spot at the top of his sport.

It was the second Daytona victory for Johnson, a five-time NASCAR champion who first won "The Great American Race" in 2006. Patrick, the first woman to win the pole, also became the first woman to lead the race. She was running third on the last lap, but faded to eighth at the finish.

There were several crashes during the race, none approaching the magnitude of the wreck that injured more than two dozen fans a day earlier in a second-tier race on the same track. Johnson raced past defending NASCAR champion Brad Keselowski on the final restart and pulled out to a sizable lead that nobody challenged over the final six laps.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. settled for second as Hendrick Motorsports drivers went 1-2 in the new Chevrolet SS. Mark Martin was third in a Michael Waltrip Racing Toyota.

Keselowski, who overcame two accidents earlier in the race, wound up fourth in the new Ford that Penske Racing is fielding this year. Patrick was clearly disappointed with her finish. But she admitted she wasn't sure what move to make if she was going to try for the win.

"You know I kept thinking about it the whole time," she said. "You spend a lot of time thinking what to do when the opportunity

comes."

Patrick became the first woman in history to lead laps in the 500 when she passed Michael Waltrip on a restart on Lap 90. She stayed on the point for two laps, then was shuffled back to third.

She ended up leading five laps, another groundbreaking moment for Patrick, who in 2005 as a rookie became the first woman to lead the Indianapolis 500. Janet Guthrie was the first woman to lead laps at NASCAR's top Cup Series, in 1977 at Ontario, where she led five laps under caution.

The field was weakened by an early nine-car accident that knocked out race favorite Kevin Harvick and sentimental favorite Tony Stewart.

Harvick had won two support races coming into the 500 to cement himself as the driver to beat, but the accident sent him home with a 42nd place finish.

Stewart, meanwhile, dropped to 0-for-15 in one of the few races the three-time NASCAR champion has never won.

"If I didn't tell you I was heartbroken and disappointed, I'd be lying to you," Stewart said.

That accident also took former winner Jamie McMurray, his Chip Ganassi Racing teammate Juan Pablo Montoya, and Kasey Kahne out of contention.

The next accident — involving nine cars — came 105 laps later and brought a thankful end to Speedweeks for Carl Edwards. He was caught in his fifth accident since testing last month, and this wreck collected six other Ford drivers.

The field suddenly had six Toyota drivers at the front as Joe Gibbs Racing and Michael Waltrip Racing drivers took control of the race.

But JGR's day blew up — literally — when the team was running 1-2-3 with Matt Kenseth, Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch setting the pace.

Kenseth went to pit road first with a transmission issue, and Busch was right behind him with a blown engine. Busch was already in street clothes watching as Hamlin led the field.

"It's a little devastating when you are running 1-2-3 like that," Busch said. □



Jimmie Johnson, right, holds up the trophy next to owner Rick Hendrick, left, in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 Sprint Cup Series auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

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James wins 4 medals at track cycling worlds

YURAS KARMAU

Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Sarah Hammer of the United States grabbed her sixth career gold medal and second of the week by winning the women's omnium Sunday, while Rebecca Angharad James of Britain made history by winning the women's keirin at the track cycling world championships.

It was the second gold medal in as many days for James, and her fourth medal in five days.

Stefan Botticher won the men's sprint title for his second gold, while France dominated the men's Madison 50K race.

James became the first British woman to win four medals at one championships. She took bronze medals in the women's 500-meter time trial and team sprint and added gold in the sprint on Saturday to crown her triumph with a win in the keirin race. James led from the start and edged Gong Jinjie of China by 0.116 seconds. Lisandra Guerra Rodriguez



Sarah Hammer, of USA, competes in the track cycling Women's Omnium and races to take first place during the Track Cycling World Championships in Minsk, Belarus, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013.

Associated Press

of Cuba was 0.121 seconds back in third.

"I can't believe it ... That final was so hard. Just to come away with a gold medal is just unbelievable," James said. "Just the adrenaline got me through

it today. I had a pretty good sleep last night. I woke up this morning and I didn't feel that tired. It's the last day of racing and I just wanted to get everything out of the tank here." James wrapped herself in

a British flag and crossed the track to embrace her parents in the stands.

"In the final I just got every single little bit out of the tank," she added. "I'm coming away with the gold."

Kristina Vogel of Germany crashed on the last turn as she tried to challenge the pack. Hammer, who won the individual pursuit on Wednesday, scored 20 points in the overall omnium standings after six events, four points less than defending world champion Laura Trott of Britain, who beat the American for the Olympic gold in the discipline in London. Olympic bronze medallist Annette Edmondson of Australia had 26 points for third.

In omnium, points are awarded in reverse order so the rider finishing with the fewest points wins.

Botticher beat Russia's Dennis Dmitriev in two races in the sprint final to claim his second gold medal this week. Francois Pervis of France edged Sam Webster of New Zealand to win his second bronze medal

and third in five days. The American rider had a six-point advantage over Trott going into the final 500-meter time trial event and clocked the sixth result. Trott was timed fourth to narrow the gap by two points.

Hammer wept with joy after the race and then picked up an American flag and rode with it over her head around the track at Minsk Arena.

"It's unbelievable. It just doesn't feel real to me right now," Hammer said. "I always had it (victory) in the back of my mind, but to be honest I was aiming to be in the top eight in all the events, and to qualify first, it gave me a bit of confidence. But in omnium you never know it till it's over. I knew I had the legs to be up first, but actually, to be the world champion — this is crazy."

Hammer was the only rider representing the United States at the championships.

"It (result) couldn't have been better. I'm so excited," Hammer said. □

Match Play

Continued from Page 17

Kuchar wound up winning, 2 and 1, when Mahan removed the stocking cap he used to fight the cold desert air and conceded Kuchar a short birdie putt. It was the first World Golf Championship title for Kuchar, and it follows a year in which he won The Players Championship. Kuchar became the second player in the last three years to win the Match Play Championship without ever playing the 18th hole.

Mahan was trying to join Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back winners, and he gave it a good shot despite the big deficit halfway through the match.

In a strong, cold wind—the wind chill index reached a low of 37 degrees on the final day—Mahan made a

long two-putt par to win the 10th, and played a tough chip from the mound of a bunker to about 6 feet for a birdie on the next hole, cutting the lead in half.

Mahan followed with a tee shot into about 10 feet on the par-3 12th, the momentum squarely on his side.

Kuchar, however, followed with a tee shot to just inside 15 feet and made the birdie putt. On the par-5 13th, Mahan hit a poor approach from the fairway and Kuchar got up-and-down to restore his lead to 3 up.

Kuchar came up with one more clutch shot. With a 2-up lead on the 304-yard 15th hole, the breeze at his back, Kuchar chipped about 10 feet past the hole with Mahan only 6 feet away for birdie. Kuchar holed the putt and escaped with a halve.

Mahan won the 16th with a two-putt par when Kuchar's tee shot bounced off the corporate tents



Hunter Mahan, left, congratulates Matt Kuchar after Kuchar won 2 and 1 in the final round of play during the Match Play Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

behind the green, and it look as though the match would go down the 18th for the first time in nine matches for Kuchar. Both hit into the fairway bunker, but Mahan's ball was slightly sunk in the sand, and his approach never came close to reaching the green. Instead, rolled

He played 96 holes and only trailed after four holes all week.

Kuchar polished off Jason Day of Australia in the semifinals Saturday morning, 4 and 3.

Mahan hit a series of remarkable wedge shots in beating Ian Poulter, 4 and 3, in his semifinal. He twice hit difficult chips inside 5 feet to win holes, and then seized control with a chip-in from about 70 feet on the 12th hole to take command.

Day defeated Poulter in the consolation match, 1 up.

It was the first all-American final in five years at the Match Play Championship, and Kuchar's win gave the Americans a clean sweep of the PGA Tour's West Coast Swing for the second straight year.

He moves to No. 8 in the world and picked up \$1.5 million, and now has earned just over \$3.2 million from his last two wins. □

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Yankees OF Granderson breaks arm, out 10 weeks

The Associated Press
New York Yankees' Curtis Granderson is hit by a pitch from the Toronto Blue Jays' J.A. Happ during the first inning of a spring training exhibition baseball ...

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) -- Curtis Granderson jogged to first base after being hit on his right forearm as if it was a minor annoyance. Back at the ballpark in a brace a couple of hours later, it was clear the New York Yankees had a pretty big power problem on their hands.

In his first at-bat of spring training, the slugger broke his arm when he hit by a pitch from Toronto's J.A. Happ in the bottom of the first inning Sunday, and is expected to be out until the first week of May.

"Grandy is not a bat you say is easy to replace, but we're going to have to find a way," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "No one is going to feel sorry for you." The Yankees, who were beat 2-0 by a Blue Jays' split squad, first called it a bruise but X-rays revealed the break.

"Five pitches in we got a little setback," Granderson said. "Now we rest, recovery, get it back, and get

ready to play whenever that day comes." The team said Granderson could be out 10 weeks, which means he'll miss about a month of the regular season.

"Mentally, you understand this is part of it, but at the same time now there's not much I can do about it except do the best things I can to not make it worse," Granderson said. "Keep myself ready to go."

It's a major blow for the Yankees, who are already without Alex Rodriguez until at least the All-Star break. The Yankees also lost Nick Swisher to free agency. Granderson led New York with 43 homers last season. The Yankees hit 245 homers last year and had five players with at least 20. This year they could open the season with just two players, Mark Teixeira and Robinson Cano, who topped 20.

Granderson was examined near first base before leaving the game.

"It didn't sound good," said Yankees third baseman Kevin Youkilis, who was in the on-deck circle when Granderson got hit. The Yankees were planning to experiment during

exhibition games to see if they would move Granderson from center to left, with Brett Gardner going from left to center. That potential alignment is on hold.

Girardi said that Gardner will likely start the season in center.

Matt Diaz and Juan Rivera, in the competition for the fourth outfielder spot, could see increased playing time.

"We'll be forced to take a look at a short-term option," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "Obviously, we'll be getting Curtis back. It's very early. We're still evaluating what we actually have in camp. The first month there will be a vacancy that we need to fill. Is that internal, external, I couldn't even tell you."

Cashman said he is not in favor of giving infielder Eduardo Nunez a look in left field.

Happ, coming back from foot surgery, went two scoreless innings, giving up three hits.

"The first inning, I was rushing a little bit, and not quite getting the extension I needed," Happ said.

"Going out for that second inning I felt much bet-



New York Yankees' Curtis Granderson is hit by a pitch from Toronto Blue Jays' J.A. Happ during the first inning of a spring training exhibition baseball game, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, in Tampa, Fla. Granderson left the game after the play and is expected to be out until May after breaking his right forearm.

ter. I was taking my body toward home instead of first there."

Happ reached out to Granderson before the outfielder left the stadium for X-rays.

"Definitely not throwing on purpose, he's trying to work on coming inside," Granderson said. "It's a part of the game. Sometime you get hit. You just hope you get hit in a better spot."

Projected as the team's sixth starter, Happ had a 10-11 record with a 4.79 ERA in 24 starts and four relief appearances last season.

Yankees starter Adam Warren threw two hitless innings. The right-hander hit Brett Lawrie with a pitch in the second, which he said got away from him.

"Tried to go in with a fastball," Warren said. □

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Kei Nishikori, of Japan, holds his trophy after defeating Feliciano Lopez, of Spain, in the final of the U.S. National Indoor Championships tennis tournament Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

Nishikori wins in Memphis for 3rd career title

TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Kei Nishikori of Japan won his third career title and second since October, beating Feliciano Lopez of Spain 6-2, 6-3 in the U.S. National Indoor Championships on Sunday.

Nishikori needed only 67 minutes to improve to 3-2 in finals. He won his first career title in Delray Beach in 2008 and improved to 11-2 this year.

Seeded fifth, Nishikori was the only seed to reach the weekend. He finished the tournament without dropping a set in taking the \$291,800 winner's check. Lopez, who beat Nishikori in April 2011 in Barcelona on clay, was looking for his own third career ATP title and first since Johannesburg in February 2010.

But Nishikori broke Lopez twice to go up 4-1 in the first set and broke him again to start the second. □

Federer insists he still has game to be No. 1.

MICHAEL CASEY
AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray have played in the last two Grand Slam finals and it's easy to imagine their rivalry overshadowing an aging Roger Federer and an injury-plagued Rafael Nadal in the years to come.

But the second-ranked Federer will have none of it. As he prepares to defend his Dubai Championships title, the 31-year-old Federer says Sunday he is playing "excellent tennis" and is confident he can overtake Djokovic for top spot although he acknowledged it will be a challenge given that he plans to scale back his schedule in 2013. He plans to take several weeks off ahead of the start of the clay season.

"Absolutely realistic, if you play great," Federer said of returning to No. 1, a spot he last held for 17 weeks until Oct. 29, breaking a record of 286 weeks at the top held by Pete Sampras.

"The question is will I be able to do that or will I be allowed. Time will tell," Federer said. "I know it's possible. I know it's possible to win tournaments. But right now, a big focus is on making sure every tournament I enter that I'm perfectly prepared like for here, for Australia, for Indian Wells." Federer also brushed aside talk of retirement, making it clear he remains healthy and hungry to win more trophies including another Grand Slam title — preferably Wimbledon which he has won seven times. He is going for his sixth title in Dubai.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion added to his total with a Wimbledon title in 2012 but lost in the quar-



Roger Federer of Switzerland scratches his head in his match against Julien Benneteau of France at the ABN AMRO world tennis tournament at Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Friday Feb. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

terfinals of the U.S. Open and the semifinals of this year's Australian Open.

"I want to give myself the best possible chance to play as long as I can," Federer said.

"Eventually, it will be clear that it is time to stop but the time is definitely not now," he said. "But then again, things change very quickly. You have to be ready for it and open to it. I'm not naive that I can play for 15 more years but I would like to give myself a chance to play for many more years to come. I'm happy with where my body is at."

Federer said the recent focus on a Djokovic-Murray rivalry made sense to some degree. But with four different players winning all four Grand Slams last year, he said it was premature to turn the men's game into a two-man competition.

"Yes, they have played more often than not and they have played in some big matches and very often the matches have been very good, so naturally that is what the media looks at. I understand that," he said. "It's all a question of how you see things. Rafa also has not been involved in this whole process the past seven months, so you don't want to jump the gun too quick."

Djokovic, who is also in Dubai and going for his fourth title, agreed.

"I cannot pick him (Murray) over Roger and Rafa because all three of them are still my biggest rivals," Djokovic said. "I cannot pick one of those three guys because Roger and Rafa have been so dominant in our sport and they have still - from all of the active players - the biggest rivalry."

Djokovic said he was impressed with what he saw from Nadal in Brazil, where the Spaniard won his first title earlier this month since returning from a lengthy knee injury.

"He's still playing really, really good on clay and I didn't expect any different," Djokovic said. "Again, I'm not in his shoes and I don't know how he physically feels, but he played in finals and won a tournament, even though it's a 250 event and he hasn't played in those tournaments in many years. I'm sure that's going to give him a lot of confidence for the rest of the season because that's what he wanted. It doesn't matter at what level and it's great for tennis that he's back - there's no question about it." After winning the Australian Open, attention has turned to Djokovic matching his 2011 exploits when he won three majors, had a 43-match winning streak and finished the year 70-6. The Serb said he was "in a strong position" to win more majors in 2013 and that he was "not hiding" the fact he wanted to win the French Open — where his chances have improved due to the injury troubles of seven-time champion Nadal.

And in a warning to his rivals, he said he is in a better state of mind than he was a year ago.

"Mentally, I do feel a little bit more relieved than I was at the start of 2012," Djokovic said. "Following up after 2011 was an extreme challenge for me - mentally mostly - because I still played really well, but I found myself for the first time in a position to be the No. 1 in the world and to defend Grand Slam titles - three in a whole year."

"Right now, I've recuperated, I've learned my lesson, I've understood the experience that I went through and I'm ready for new challenges." □



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Huawei reveals 'fastest smartphone in the world'

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Huawei, a Chinese company that recently became the world's third-largest maker of smartphones, calls its new flagship product "the fastest smartphone in the world" and wants to use it to expand global awareness of its brand. Parts of the presentation of the phone at a press conference Sunday in Barcelona, Spain, suggest that the company has some way to go in polishing its pitch for a global audience. Richard Yu, head of Huawei's consumer business group said the new phone can be programmed to display more than 100 different "themes," or looks. This is important because "ladies like flowers, colorful things," Yu said. Yu also said Huawei is learning from Apple how to make Google's

Android software easier to use, a lawsuit-friendly utterance considering that Apple is on a global campaign to sue makers of Android phones for copying from the iPhone.

The new phone, the Ascend P2, will have a 4.7 inch screen. Yu said it will be available in the April to June time frame for about \$525 without a contract. It's the "fastest" because it supports faster download speeds than other phones. However, today's wireless networks aren't equipped to supply those speeds.

Huawei Technologies Ltd. was the world's third largest seller of smartphones, after Samsung and Apple, in the fourth quarter of last year, according to research firm IDC. That's despite selling very few phones in the U.S., where the big phone companies mostly ignore it. It has a much better position in Europe, where cell-

phone companies have embraced its network equipment, and France's Orange is committed to selling the phone.

In the U.S., a congressional panel recommended in October that phone carriers avoid doing business with Huawei or its smaller Chinese rival, ZTE Corp., for fear that its network equipment could contain "back doors" that enable access to communications from outside. The Chinese government rejected the report as false and an effort to block Chinese companies from the U.S. market. Meanwhile, a report by a private U.S. cybersecurity firm concluded recently that a special unit of China's military is responsible for sustained cyberespionage against U.S. companies and government agencies. China has denied involvement in the attacks in which massive



This undated product image provided by Huawei, shows the Chinese company's new flagship model that it calls "the fastest smartphone in the world."

Associated Press

amounts of data and corporate trade secrets, likely worth hundreds of millions of dollars, were stolen.

"It has not been an easy journey for us," Huawei's global brand director, Amy Lou, said Sunday of the company's quest to be-

come globally recognized and trusted. She called the company "a great consumer brand in the making."

The world's largest cell-phone trade show, Mobile World Congress, opens Monday in Barcelona. □

Samsung takes on iPad Mini with Galaxy Note 8.0

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Samsung Electronics is beefing up its tablet range with a competitor to Apple's iPad Mini that sports a pen for writing on the screen.

The Korean company announced on Sunday in B'arcelona that the Galaxy Note 8.0 will have an 8-inch screen, putting it very close in size to the Apple's tablet, which launched in November with a 7.9-inch screen. It's not the first time Samsung has made a tablet that's in the Mini's size range: it's very first iPad competitor had a 7-inch

screen, and it still makes a tablet of that size, but without a pen.

Samsung will start selling the new tablet in the April to June period, at an as yet undetermined price. It made the announcement ahead of Mobile World Congress, the wireless industry's annual trade show, which starts Monday in Barcelona, Spain.

The Note 8.0 fills a gap in Samsung's line-up of pen-equipped devices between the Galaxy Note II smartphone, with its 5.5-inch screen, and the Galaxy Note 10.1, a full-size tablet. Samsung has made the pen, or more prop-

erly the stylus, one of the tools it uses to chip away at Apple's dominance in both tablets and high-end smartphones. Apple doesn't make any devices that work with styluses, preferring to optimize its interfaces for fingers, mice and touchpads.

On Samsung's Note line, the pens can be used to write, highlight and draw. The screens also sense when the mouse hovers over the screen, providing an equivalent to the hovering mouse cursor on the PC. However, few third-party applications have been modified to take full advantage of the pens. □



This undated image provided by Samsung on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013 shows the Samsung GALAXY Note 8 with a stylus. Samsung Electronics is beefing up its tablet range with a competitor to Apple's iPad Mini that sports a pen for writing on the screen. Associated Press

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Wall Street holds its nerve as spending cuts near

STEVE ROTHWELL
 AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With barely a week to go before \$85 billion in automatic government spending cuts kick in, Wall Street is holding its nerve.

The Dow Jones industrial average has gained 6.8 percent since the start of the year as investors largely ignored the latest installment of Washington's budget drama. The Dow Jones climbed close to its record level at the start of the month and the Standard & Poor's 500 notched up a streak of seven straight weeks of gains, before easing back this week. Even after its weekly loss of 0.3 percent, it's still up 6.3 percent this year.

Wall Street is betting that the cuts, which the Congressional Budget Office estimates will take 0.6 of a percentage point of economic growth this year and cost 750,000 jobs, won't be enough to derail the recovery. Investors may also have become used to Washington brinkmanship, having seen last-minute deals brokered after a series of political standoffs.

David Bianco, chief U.S. equities strategist at Deutsche Bank, says the automatic spending cuts could actually be a "net positive" for stocks, despite the drag that they would put on the economy. That's because a set of known, measurable spending cuts are better than no budget reduction at all.

"Significant spending cuts are needed," Bianco says. "Until that happens, people are going to worry that this is still a problem that



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013.

Associated Press

needs to be solved."

Bianco estimates that the impact of the spending cuts on corporate profits will be limited, reducing the income of companies in the S&P 500 index by just 2 percent.

Sitting on the sidelines during the political wrangling in Washington hasn't been a winning strategy in recent years either, as stocks have rebounded and come back stronger each time, says David Kelly, chief strategist at J.P. Morgan funds. The Dow has returned 24 percent since the end of August 2011, after plunging following the showdown that month over raising the country's borrowing limit. The index is also 12 percent higher since bottoming out in November after the election, when investors sold stocks

on concern that a divided government wouldn't be able to come up with a budget compromise.

"Twice already investors have learnt the lesson that if you wait for everything to calm down in Washington you'll miss out on the rally," Kelly says.

Analysts and investors generally agree that the huge amount of attention being paid to the \$85 billion of cuts far exceeds the actual impact they will have on the \$16 trillion U.S. economy, particularly given that the cuts will be phased in over time, and some will ultimately be reversed.

The cuts are very much a problem of Washington's own making. The Budget Control Act, signed into law in August 2011, was meant to end America's debt crisis and force law-

makers to come up with a measured approach to reduce the deficit. The automatic spending cuts were included in the bill with the idea that they would be so unpalatable to lawmakers that they would have a strong incentive to avoid them by making a deal to reduce the budget deficit.

With time running out to broker a deal, the cuts looks likely to go into effect on March 1. Then the focus will likely turn to a March 27 deadline that could result in a government shutdown. That may sound scary, but even that outcome doesn't necessarily translate into a slumping stock market, says Tobias Levkovich, an equity strategist at Citigroup. When President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich clashed over the

budget in late 1995 and early 1996, the market actually rallied, with the S&P 500 gaining about 4 percent over the course of the shutdown. That suggests that investors were focusing on other factors such as economic growth and earnings.

As the intensity of the debate around cuts and shutdowns picks up, investors shouldn't overreact. "We don't think it's a great idea to trade around the vicissitudes of Washington behavior," says Levkovich.

Defense is one area where the cuts will be felt acutely, and investors have responded accordingly. The Pentagon is preparing to slash \$46 billion from its budget year, which runs to Sep. 30. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told Congress on Wednesday.

Defense giants Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and General Dynamics have all slumped this year, while the broader market has rallied. Lockheed Martin, which makes fighter jets including the F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning, has fallen 4.5 percent this year to \$88.12. General Dynamics, which builds ships for the navy has dropped 2.8 percent to \$67.32.

Chris Bertelsen, chief investment officer at Global Financial Private Capital, says the slump is an opportunity for investors to pick up stocks at a good price and lock in high dividend income. Lockheed Martin, for example, pays a dividend of 5.3 percent on its stock, more than double the average rate of 2.1 percent in the S&P 500. □

Panama Canal project raises ire around East ports

KATIE ZEZIMA

Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— Residents of this city's Ironbound neighborhood are familiar with big modes of transport. Jumbo jets fly so low while approaching Newark Airport that it seems one can hop onto a wing. Double-decker trains race through, ferrying passengers to New York City. Trucks rumble down narrow streets where the smell of Portuguese barbecue wafts through the air and Brazilian music emanates from stores and cars.

But some here and in neighborhoods near other East Coast ports are leery of the monster ships that will soon arrive because of a trade project thousands of miles (kilometers) away that they believe will harm their air quality, roadways and waterways.

"We can't afford any additional environmental burdens," said Joseph Della Fave, executive director of the Ironbound Community Corp. East and Gulf coast ports are jockeying against one another, scrambling to accommodate so-called "post-Panamax" ships: massive vessels that can traverse an expanded Panama Canal. The \$5.25 billion project is expected to be completed in 2015 and will nearly triple the size of ships that can travel the canal.

One of the most remarkable transformations is

proposed not far from the Ironbound. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey wants to raise the Bayonne Bridge, a soaring steel arch span that connects Bayonne, New Jersey, with New York City's Staten Island borough, by 64 feet (19.5 meters). The \$1 billion project would allow post-Panamax ships to reach Port Newark and the Elizabeth Port Authority Marine Terminals in New Jersey and Howland Hook in New York. It was fast-tracked by President Barack Obama last year and is expected to be completed in 2016. Channels near the bridge will be deepened to 50 feet (15 meters). Residents in the Ironbound and on Staten Island worry that larger ships will bring more trucks and increased diesel pollution to poor communities that already shoulder heavy traffic loads. The Ironbound Community Corp. does an annual one-day count of trucks that pass through and idle in the heavily industrial neighborhood; in 2011 it counted 1,327 driving on neighborhood streets and highways and 41 idling. The Ironbound is also home to the state's largest incinerator and sewage treatment plant. "It's going to be a lot of dust, a lot of dirt, a lot of vibrations with the raising of the bridge, and there's going to be a lot of truck traffic and rerouting of trucks," said Beryl Thurman, executive director of the North

Shore Waterfront Conservancy on Staten Island. She can see the bridge from her home.

The Coast Guard issued a draft environmental assessment of the project last month and found it will have no significant environmental or health effects. The public has until March 5 to review the report and comment.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency rebuked the Coast Guard in written comments, saying it has "fundamental concerns" with the Coast Guard's findings and thinks a more robust examination must be done.

"We believe that an appropriate analysis would likely reveal changes in the distribution pattern of cargo which could reasonably be expected to result in environmental impacts, particularly air quality impacts associated with increased Port activity and associated diesel truck traffic," the EPA wrote in remarks submitted to the Coast Guard. Hundreds of people packed one of three public hearings on the project on Feb. 13. Some, including trade union members and residents, said the project should get its final permitting because both the construction and cargo traffic would provide much-needed jobs to the area. The unemployment rate is 14.7 percent in Newark and 11.8 percent in Bayonne,



In this Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010 file photo, the President Truman, a large cargo ship, passes under the Bayonne Bridge in Bayonne, N.J., as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, third left, front, and Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, fourth left, front, listen with others, as U.S. Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ) talks about plans to raise the height of the bridge to accommodate the larger next generation of cargo ships.

according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It's 8.8 percent in New York City. The national unemployment rate is 7.9 percent.

Others worried about health issues and said the project must go forward only if efforts are made to reduce environmental effects. "I have many concerns about unhealthy air quality at the port," said Nancy Mincey, an Ironbound resident whose 13-year-old son has severe asthma. Eduardo Rivera, a truck driver, said that drivers idle in lines and that those classified as independent contractors can't afford to buy newer, more efficient trucks.

"The Port Authority should fix port trucking; then they can raise the bridge," he

said at the hearing.

In a statement, the Port Authority said raising the roadway will "have tremendous economic and environmental benefits for communities throughout the Port District." The agency said it is "committed to clean air strategies ... and we will continue to work with our neighbors in the port district to ensure that our ports are healthy and economically viable moving forward."

Gary Kassof, bridge program manager for the First Coast Guard District, said the agency stands by its assessment and is taking resident concerns into account before deciding if the document will be finalized or if more study is needed. □

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5	8	9									
9	7	6	5	8							
3											6
7	9	3	5							1	
5											6
2			3	9	5	7					
6			4								
	9	5	3	4	1						
	1	7	8								

Difficulty Level ★

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2/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	6	9	4	8	7	3	1	2			
2	8	3	1	6	5	7	9	4			
7	4	1	3	2	9	5	8	6			
4	5	8	6	1	3	9	2	7			
1	7	6	9	5	2	8	4	3			
9	3	2	8	7	4	1	6	5			
3	2	4	7	9	8	6	5	1			
8	1	7	5	4	6	2	3	9			
6	9	5	2	3	1	4	7	8			

Saturday's puzzle answer

5	6	9	4	8	7	3	1	2			
2	8	3	1	6	5	7	9	4			
7	4	1	3	2	9	5	8	6			
4	5	8	6	1	3	9	2	7			
1	7	6	9	5	2	8	4	3			
9	3	2	8	7	4	1	6	5			
3	2	4	7	9	8	6	5	1			
8	1	7	5	4	6	2	3	9			
6	9	5	2	3	1	4	7	8			

ACROSS

- 1 J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.
4 Meanies
9 Blockhead
13 Payment to a landlord
15 Treasure cache
16 Make, as a salary
17 All at ___; suddenly
18 Conceals
19 Oxford or loafer
20 Brazen
22 Baby dogs
23 Ringlet
24 Wedding words
26 Composer of a famous lullaby
29 Less wrinkled
34 Green gems
35 "To ___ own self be true"
36 Stein contents
37 Smell
38 Swamp reptiles, for short
39 Ticket end
40 Van Winkle of fiction
41 ___ de Ville; old Cadillac model
42 Napped leather
43 Famous people
45 Crumb
46 Entertainment sponsor for GIs
47 Beau Bridges' brother
48 Auctioneer's cry
51 Refuting arguments
56 Scorch
57 Banishment
58 Actor James ___
60 Assistant
61 Numerical comparison
62 On ___; nervous
63 Too inquisitive
64 Make a smudge worse
65 Morning grass blade drops

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		14	15								
17			18								
20		21									
23											
26	27	28									
34			35								
37		38									
40		41									
43		44									
46			47								
48	49	50		51	52	53			54	55	
56			57						58		59
60			61						62		
63			64						65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/25/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

COIN	AGNES	FOOL
UNDO	CROAK	ENVY
BEER	CENTIMETER	
ASA	MUTE	ALONE
LHASA	IRE	
OPiate	CARROT	
NESTS	RAINY	FRO
CATS	MUSTS	STEW
ELI	WEEPY	STEAL
SCREWS	HOUNDS	
ELS	POINT	
ABDUL	SELL	ITS
CLASSIFIED	SMUT	
TALE	SALVER	RENO
SHED	ENTER	ASAP

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- 33 Nonconformist
35 Accurate
38 Crayon users
39 Show up; come into view
40 Major network
42 Hard's opposite
44 Ms. Hepburn
45 Shooting star
47 Late chef Child
48 Read quickly
49 Cincinnati, ___
50 Boys
52 Test
53 Use the teeth
54 Alan or Cheryl
55 Wise man
59 Just purchased

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Women in Difficulties

</

Future science: Using 3D worlds to visualize data

CARLA K. JOHNSON

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Take a walk through a human brain? Fly over the surface of Mars? Computer scientists at the University of Illinois at Chicago are pushing science fiction closer to reality with a wrap-around virtual world where a researcher wearing 3D glasses can do all that and more.

In the system, known as CAVE2, a screen encircles the viewer 320 degrees. A panorama of images springs from 72 stereoscopic liquid crystal display panels, conveying a dizzying sense of being able to touch what's not really there.

As far back as 1950, sci-fi author Ray Bradbury imagined a children's nursery that could make bedtime stories disturbingly real. "Star Trek" fans might remember the holodeck as the virtual playground where the fictional Enterprise crew relaxed in fantasy worlds.

The computer scientists have more serious matters in mind when they hand visitors 3D glasses and a controller called a "wand." Scientists in many fields today share a common challenge: How to truly understand overwhelming amounts of data. Jason Leigh, co-inventor of the CAVE2 virtual reality system, believes this technology answers that challenge.

"In the next five years, we anticipate using the CAVE to look at really large-scale data to help scientists make sense of that information. CAVEs are essentially fantastic lenses for



University of Illinois-Chicago computer scientist Jason Leigh, co-inventor of the CAVE2 virtual reality system, poses with a pair of specially designed 3D glasses in the CAVE2 where the system's 72 stereoscopic liquid crystal display panels encircles the viewer 320 degrees and creates a 3D environment that can take you to the bridge of the Starship Enterprise, a flyover the planet Mars, or through the blood vessels of the brain. Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, in Chicago.

Associated Press



In this photo made Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, in Chicago, Andreas Linninger, University of Illinois-Chicago professor of bioengineering, chemical engineering and computer science, left, adjusts his 3D glasses as brain surgeon Ali Alaraj talks about viewing the brain inside CAVE2.

Associated Press

bringing data into focus," Leigh said.

The CAVE2 virtual world could change the way doctors are trained and improve patient care, Leigh said. Pharmaceutical researchers could use it to model the way new drugs bind to proteins in the human body. Car designers

could virtually "drive" their new vehicle designs.

Imagine turning massive amounts of data — the forces behind a hurricane, for example — into a simulation that a weather researcher could enlarge and explore from the inside. Architects could walk through their skyscrapers before they are built. Surgeons could rehearse a

procedure using data from an individual patient.

But the size and expense of room-based virtual reality systems may prove insurmountable barriers to widespread use, said Henry Fuchs, a computer science professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who is familiar with the CAVE technology but wasn't involved in its development.

While he calls the CAVE2 "a national treasure," Fuchs predicts a smaller technology such as Google's Internet-connected eyeglasses will do more to revolutionize medicine than the CAVE. Still, he says large displays are the best way today for people to interact and collaborate.

Believers include the peo-

from real NASA data. The brain tour is based on the layout of blood vessels in a real patient.

Brain surgeon Ali Alaraj remembered the first time he viewed the brain using the CAVE2.

"You can walk between the blood vessels," said the University of Illinois College of Medicine neurosurgeon. "You can look at the arteries from below. You can look at the arteries from the side.... That was science fiction for me."

Would doctors process information faster with fewer errors using CAVE2? That's the question behind a proposed study that would compare CAVE2 to conventional methods of detecting brain aneurysms and determining proper treatment, said Andreas Linninger, UIC professor of bioengineering, chemical engineering and computer science.

But it's not all serious business at the lab.

In his spare time during the past two years, research assistant Arthur Nishimoto has been programming the CAVE2 computer with the specifications for the fictional Starship Enterprise. He now can walk around his life-size recreation of the TV spacecraft.

The original technology, introduced in the early 1990s, was called CAVE, which stood for Cave Automatic Virtual Environment and also cleverly referred to Plato's cave, the philosopher's analogy about shadows and reality. It was named by former lab co-directors Tom DeFanti and Dan Sandin.

The second generation of the CAVE, invented by Leigh and his collaborator Andy Johnson, has higher resolution. The project was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

"It's fantastic to come to work. Every day is like getting to live a science fiction dream," Leigh said. "To do science in this kind of environment is absolutely amazing." □

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McCarthy's 'Identity Thief' tops box office again

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood's latest films performed tepidly at the box-office on Oscar weekend, with Melissa McCarthy's "Identity Thief" returning to the top spot in its third week of release.

The Universal comedy earned \$14.1 million on the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, enough to regain the box-office title after losing it last week to 20th Century Fox's "A Good Day to Die Hard," the Bruce Willis action sequel.

With a cumulative total of \$93.7 million, "Identity Thief" is the biggest hit so far in 2013. Though the film has been badly reviewed by critics, the road trip duo of McCarthy and Jason Bateman has proved popular at the multiplexes, where no other comedy has been around to chal-



This undated publicity file image released by Universal Pictures shows Jason Bateman, left, and Melissa McCarthy in a scene from, "Identity Thief."

Associated Press

lenge it.

More than anything, "Identity Thief" has proven the stardom of McCarthy, following her breakout per-

formance in "Bridesmaids." "The holding power of a film always gives you an idea of the strength of its concept or its star," said

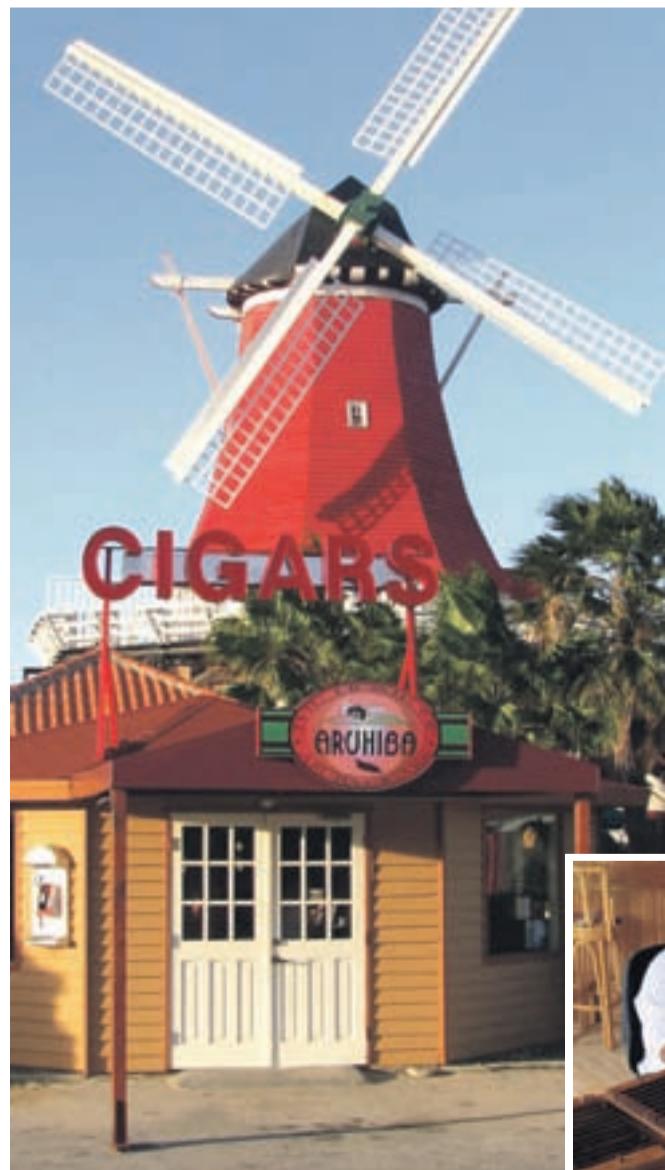
Nikki Rocco, Universal head of distribution. "In this case, it's both."

With the industry gathering for the Oscars on Sun-

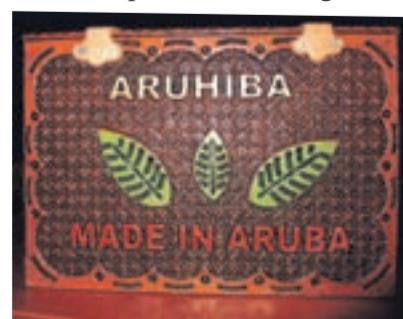
day, it's always a weekend where moviegoers' attention goes more to the Academy Awards than the movie theater. For the fifth week in a row, the box office was down as compared to last year's business.

One of the two new films in wide release, Lionsgate's Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson action film, "Snitch," opened with \$13 million. That was a decent but not strong showing for "Snitch" in a year where action films have largely fared poorly. Though "A Good Day to Die Hard," the fourth film in the franchise, led the box office last week, it slid 60 percent in its second week to \$10 million. Earlier action films from Arnold Schwarzenegger ("The Last Stand"), Jason Statham ("Parker") and Sylvester Stallone ("Bullet to the Head") performed worse. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.



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Ben Affleck's 'Argo' wins best-picture Oscar

By DAVID GERMAIN

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ben Affleck's "Argo," a film about a fake movie, has earned a very real prize: best picture at the Academy Awards.

From the White House, First Lady Michelle Obama joined Jack Nicholson to help present the final prize.

"There are eight great films that have every right, as much a right to be up here as we do," Affleck said of the other best-picture nominees.

In share-the-wealth mode, Oscar voters spread Sunday's honors among a range of films, with "Argo" winning three trophies but "Life of Pi" leading with four.

Daniel Day-Lewis joined a select group of recipients with his third Oscar, taking the best-actor trophy for his monumental performance as Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War saga "Lincoln."

"Hunger Games" star Jennifer Lawrence triumphed in Hollywood's big games, winning the best actress as a damaged soul in "Silver Linings Playbook," while Ang Lee pulled off a huge upset as best director for "Life of Pi."

Anne Hathaway went from propping up leaden sidekick James Franco at the Academy Awards to hefting a golden statue of her own with a supporting-actress Oscar win as a doomed mother-turned-prostitute in the musical "Les Misérables."

Christoph Waltz won his second supporting-actor Oscar for a Tarantino film, this time as a genteel bounty hunter in the slave-revenge saga "Django Unchained." Tarantino also won his second Oscar, for original screenplay for "Django."

Ang Lee pulled off a major upset, won best director for the shipwreck story "Life of Pi," taking the prize over Steven Spielberg, who had been favored for "Lincoln." Lawrence took a fall on her way to the stage, tripping



Ben Affleck accepts the award for best picture for "Argo" during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles. Affleck's 'Argo' wins best-picture Oscar

Associated Press

on the steps.

"You guys are just standing up because you feel bad that I fell," Lawrence joked as the crowd gave her a standing ovation.

At 22, Lawrence is the second-youngest woman to win best actress, behind Marlee Matlin, who was 21 when she won for "Children of a Lesser God." Lawrence also is the third-youngest best-actress contender ever, earning her first nomination at age 20 two years ago for her breakout role in "Winter's Bone," the film that took her from virtual unknown to one of Hollywood's most-versatile and sought-after performers.

With a monumental performance as Abraham Lincoln, Day-Lewis became the only performer to win three best-actor Oscars, adding to the honors he earned for "My Left Foot" and "There Will Be Blood." He's just the sixth actor to earn three or more Oscars, tied with Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson, Ingrid Bergman and Walter Brennan with three each, and just behind Katharine Hepburn, who won four.

Hathaway, whose perkiness helped carry her and the listless Franco through an ill-starred stint as Oscar hosts two years ago, is the

third performer in a musical to win supporting actress during the genre's resurgence in the last decade. "It came true," said Hathaway, who joins 2002 supporting-actress winner Catherine Zeta-Jones for "Chicago" and 2006 recipient Jennifer Hudson for "Dreamgirls." Hathaway had warm thanks for "Les Miz" co-star Hugh Jackman, with whom she once sang a duet at the Oscars when he was the show's host.

Hathaway's Oscar came for her role as noble but fallen Fantine in the big-screen adaptation of the Broadway smash that was based on Victor Hugo's epic novel of revolution, romance and redemption in 19th century France.

"Life of Pi" also won for Mychael Danna's multi-cultural musical score that blends Indian and Western instruments and influences, plus cinematography and visual effects.

"I really want to thank you for believing this story and sharing this incredible journey with me," Lee said to all who worked on the film, a surprise blockbuster about a youth trapped on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger.

A veteran performer in Germany and his native



Jennifer Lawrence accepts the award for best actress in a leading role for "Silver Linings Playbook" during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



Daniel Day-Lewis accepts the award for best actor in a leading role for "Lincoln" during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Austria, Waltz had been a virtual unknown in Hollywood when Tarantino cast him as a gleefully evil Nazi in 2009's "Inglourious Basterds," which won him his first Oscar.

"I have to cast the right people to make those characters come alive," said Tarantino, who won previously for "Pulp Fiction. "And boy, this time, did I do it. Thank you so much, guys."

Waltz has since done a handful of other Hollywood movies, but it's Tarantino who has given him his two choicest roles. Backstage, Waltz had a simple explanation for why the collaboration works.

"Quentin writes poetry, and I like poetry," Waltz said.

Oscar host Seth MacFarlane opened with a mildly edgy monologue that offered the usual polite jabs at the academy, the stars and the industry. He took a poke at academy voters over the snub of Ben Affleck, who missed out on a directing nomination for best-picture favorite "Argo," a thriller about the CIA's plot to rescue six Americans during the Iranian hostage crisis.

"The story was so top secret that the film's director is unknown to the academy," MacFarlane said. "They know they screwed up. Ben, it's not your fault."

"Argo" also claimed the Oscar for adapted screenplay for Chris Terrio, who worked with Affleck to create a liberally embellished story based on an article about the rescue and part of CIA operative Tony Mendez's memoir.

Terrio dedicated the award to Mendez, saying "33 years ago, Tony, using nothing but his creativity and his intelligence, Tony got six people out of a bad situation."

The foreign-language prize went to Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke's old-age love story "Amour," which had been a major surprise with five nominations, including picture, director and original screenplay for Haneke and best actress for Emmanuelle Riva, who turned 86 on Sunday and would be the oldest acting winner ever.

The top prize winner at last year's Cannes Film Festival, "Amour" follows the agonizing story of an elderly man (Jean-Louis Trintignant) tending his wife (Riva) as she declines from age and illness.

Haneke thanked his own wife for supporting him in his work for 30 years.

"You are the center of my life," Haneke said.

The Scottish adventure "Brave," from Disney's Pixar Animation unit, was named best animated feature. Pixar films have won seven of the 12 Oscars since the category was added. □

A world without work



Ross Douthat
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Imagine, as 19th-century utopians often did, a society rich enough that fewer and fewer people need to work – a society where leisure becomes universally accessible, where part-time jobs replace the regimented workweek, and where living standards keep rising even though more people have left the workforce altogether.

If such a utopia were possible, one might expect that it would be achieved first among the upper classes, and then gradually spread down the social ladder. First the wealthy would work shorter hours, then the middle class, and finally even high school dropouts would be able to sleep late, take four-day weekends and choose their own adventures – “to hunt in the morning,” as Karl Marx once prophesied, “fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticize after dinner . . .”

Yet the decline of work isn’t actually some wild Marxist scenario. It’s a basic reality of 21st-century American life, one that predates the financial crash and promises to continue apace even as normal economic growth returns. This decline isn’t unemployment in the usual sense, where people look for work and can’t find it. It’s a kind of post-employment, in which people drop out of the workforce and find ways to live, more or less permanently, without a steady job. So instead of spreading from the top down, leisure time – wanted or unwanted – is expanding from the bottom up. Long hours are increasingly the province of the rich.

Of course, nobody is hailing this trend as the sign of civilizational progress. Instead, the decline in blue-collar work is often portrayed in near-apocalyptic terms – on the left as the economy’s failure to supply good-paying jobs, and on the right as a depressing sign that government dependency is killing the American work ethic.

But it’s worth linking today’s trends to the older dream of a post-work utopia, because there are ways in which the decline in workforce participation is actually being made possible by material progress.

That progress can be hard to appreciate at the moment, but America’s immense wealth is still our era’s most important eco-

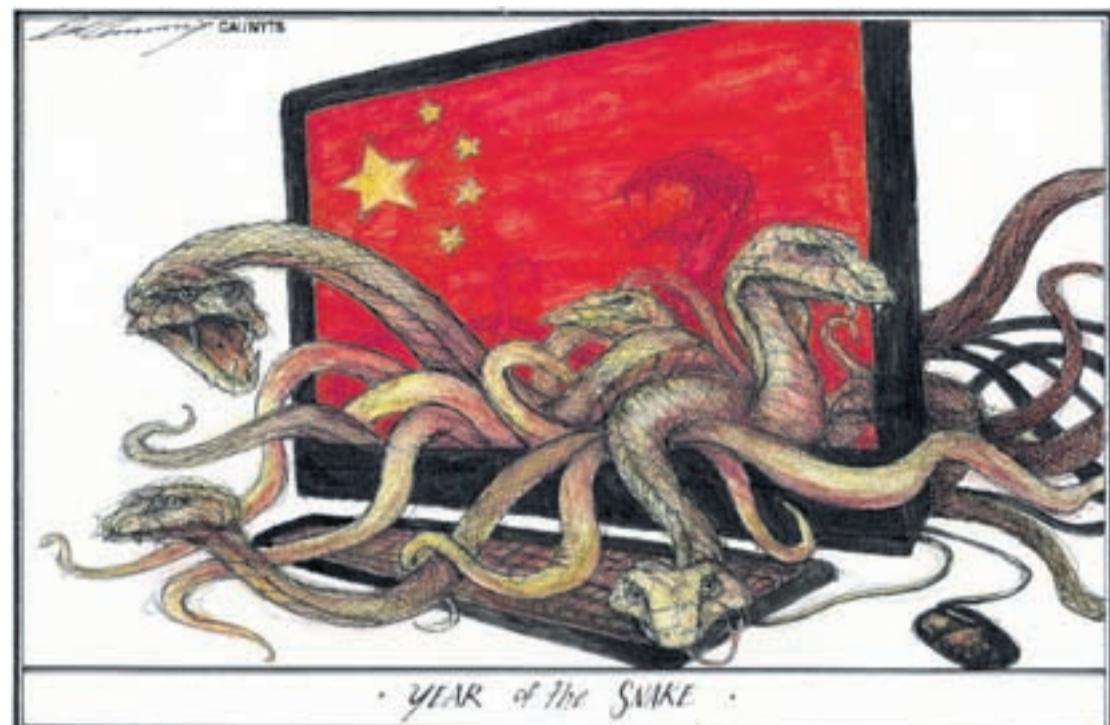
nomic fact. “When a nation is as rich as ours,” Scott Winship points out in an essay for Breakthrough Journal, “it can realize larger absolute gains than it did in the past . . . even if it has lower growth rates.” Our economy may look stagnant compared to the acceleration after World War II, but even disappointing growth rates are likely to leave the America of 2050 much richer than today.

Those riches mean that we can probably find ways to subsidize – through public means and private – a continuing decline in blue-collar work. Many of the Americans dropping out of the workforce are not destitute; they’re receiving disability payments and food stamps, living with relatives, cobbling together work here and there, and often doing as well as they might with a low-wage job. By historical standards their lives are more comfortable than the left often allows, and the fiscal cost of their situation is more sustainable than the right tends to admit. (Medicare may bankrupt us, but food stamps probably will not.)

There is a certain air of irresponsibility to giving up on employment altogether, of course. But while pundits who tap on keyboards for a living like to extol the inherent dignity of labor, we aren’t the ones stocking shelves at Wal-Mart or hunting wearily, week after week, for a job that probably pays less than our last one did. One could make the case that the right to not have a boss is actually the hardest won of modern freedoms. Should it really trouble us if more people in a rich society end up exercising it? The answer is yes – but mostly because the decline of work carries social costs as well as an economic price tag. Even a grinding job tends to be an important source of social capital, providing everyday structure for people who live alone, a place to meet friends and kindle romances for people who lack other forms of community, a path away from crime and prison for young men, an example to children and a source of self-respect for parents.

Here the decline in workforce participation is of a piece with the broader turn away from community in America – from family breakdown and declining churchgoing to the retreat into the virtual forms of sport and sex and friendship. Like many of these trends, it poses a much greater threat to social mobility than to absolute prosperity. (A nonworking working class may not be immiserated; neither will its members ever find a way to rise above their station.) And its costs will be felt in people’s private lives and inner worlds even when they don’t show up in the nation’s GDP.

In a sense, the old utopians were prescient: We’ve gained a world where steady work is less necessary to human survival than ever before. □



How Mexico got back in the game



Thomas L. Friedman
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In India, people ask you about China, and, in China, people ask you about India: Which country will become the more dominant economic power in the 21st century? I now have the answer: Mexico.

Impossible, you say? Well, yes, Mexico with only about 110 million people could never rival China or India in total economic clout. But here’s what I’ve learned from a visit to Mexico’s industrial/innovation center in Monterrey. Everything you’ve read about Mexico is true: drug cartels, crime syndicates, government corruption and weak rule of law hobble the nation. But that’s half the story. The reality is that Mexico today is more like a crazy blend of the movies “No Country for Old Men” and “The Social Network.”

Something happened here. It’s as if Mexicans subconsciously decided that their drug-related violence is a condition to be lived with and combated but not something to define them any longer. Mexico has signed 44 free-trade agreements – more than any country in the world – which, according to The Financial Times, is more than twice as many as China and four times more than Brazil. Mexico has also greatly increased the number of engineers and skilled laborers graduating from its schools. Put all that together with massive cheap natural gas finds, and rising wage and transportation costs in China, and it is no surprise that Mexico now is taking man-

ufacturing market share back from Asia and attracting more global investment than ever in autos, aerospace and household goods.

“Today, Mexico exports more manufactured products than the rest of Latin America put together,” The Financial Times reported on Sept. 19, 2012. “Chrysler, for example, is using Mexico as a base to supply some of its Fiat 500s to the Chinese market.” What struck me most in Monterrey, though, is the number of tech startups that are emerging from Mexico’s young population – 50 percent of the country is under 29 – thanks to cheap, open source innovation tools and cloud computing.

“Mexico did not waste its crisis,” remarked Patrick Kane Zambrano, director of the Center for Citizen Integration, referring to the fact that when Mexican companies lost out to China in the 1990s, they had no choice but to get more productive. Zambrano’s website embodies the youthful zest here for using technology to both innovate and stimulate social activism. The center aggregates Twitter messages from citizens about everything from broken streetlights to “situations of risk” and plots them in real-time on a phone app map of Monterrey that warns residents what streets to avoid, alerts the police to shootings and counts in days or hours how quickly public officials fix the problems.

“It sets pressure points to force change,” the center’s president, Bernardo Bichara, told me. “Once a citizen feels he is not powerless, he can aspire for more change. . . . First, the Web democratized commerce, and then it democratized media, and now it is democratizing democracy.” If Secretary of State John Kerry is looking for a new agenda, he might want to focus on forging closer integration with Mexico rather than beating his head against the rocks of Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan or Syria. Better integration of Mexico’s

manufacturing and innovation prowess into America’s is win-win. It makes U.S. companies more profitable and competitive, so they can expand at home and abroad, and it gives Mexicans a reason to stay home and reduces violence. The U.S. does \$1.5 billion a day in trade with Mexico, and spends \$1 billion a day in Afghanistan. Not smart.

We need a more nuanced view of Mexico. While touring the Center for Agrobiotechnology at Monterrey Tech, Mexico’s MIT, its director, Guy Cardineau, a scientist from Arizona, remarked to me that, in 2011, “my son-in-law returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan and we talked about having him come down and visit for Christmas. But he told me the U.S. military said he couldn’t come because of the [State Department] travel advisory here. I thought that was very ironic.” Especially when U.S. companies are expanding here, which is one reason Mexico grew last year at 3.9 percent and foreign direct investment hit record highs.

“Twenty years ago, most Mexican companies were not global,” explained Blanca Trevino, the president and founder of Softtek, one of Mexico’s leading IT service providers. They focused on the domestic market and cheap labor for the U.S. “Today, we understand that we have to compete globally” and that means “becoming efficient. We have a [software]development center in Wuxi, China. But we are more efficient now in doing the same business from our center in Aguascalientes, [Mexico,] than we are from our center in Wuxi.” Mexico still has huge governance problems to fix, but what’s interesting is that, after 15 years of political paralysis, Mexico’s three major political parties have just signed “a grand bargain,” aka “Pact for Mexico,” under the new president, Enrique Pena Nieto, to work together to fight the big energy, telecom and teacher monopolies that have held Mexico back. □

NYPD, Microsoft create crime-fighting tech system

COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An emergency call comes in about a possible bomb in lower Manhattan and an alert pops up on computer screens at the New York Police Department, instantly showing officers an interactive map of the neighborhood, footage from nearby security cameras, whether there are high radiation levels and whether any other threats have been made against the city.

In a click, police know exactly what they're getting into.

Such a hypothetical scenario may seem like something out of a futuristic crime drama, but the technology is real, developed in a partnership between the nation's largest police department and Microsoft Corp., and the latest version has been quietly in use for about a year.

The project could pay off in more ways than one: The NYPD could make tens of millions of dollars under an unprecedented marketing deal that allows Microsoft to sell the system to other law enforcement agencies and civilian companies around the world. The city will get a 30 percent cut.

The Domain Awareness System, known as "the dashboard," instantaneously mines data from the police department's voluminous arrest records, emergency calls, more than 3,000 security cameras citywide, license plate readers and portable radiation detectors, and assembles it in an easy-to-use form.

Right now, it is used only in NYPD offices, mostly in the counterterrorism unit. Eventually, the system could supply crime-fighting information in real time to officers on laptops in their squad cars and on mobile devices while they walk the beat.

"It works incredibly well," said Jessica Tisch, director of planning and policy for the counterterrorism unit.

For example, officers used



This Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 photo shows a detail of a video wall that shows New York city police officers an interactive map of the area, security footage from nearby cameras, locations where high radiation levels are detected and whether any other threats have been made in New York.

Associated Press



This Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 photo shows a detail of a video wall showing New York city police officers an interactive map of an area in the city, security footage from nearby cameras, if there are high radiation levels and whether any other threats have been made in New York.

Associated Press

the system during a deadly shooting outside the Empire State Building in August. Dozens of emergency (911) calls were coming in, and it initially looked like an attack staged by sev-

eral gunmen. But officers mapped the information and pulled up cameras within 500 feet of the reported shots to determine there was only one shooter.

Analysts are cautious about the potential profits, saying that largely depends on Microsoft's sales efforts and whether any major competition arises. While there other data-drilling products made by other companies, they say

said analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group, a technology analysis firm. "Getting it to work in a way that police departments can use in real time is huge."

The venture began in 2009 when the NYPD approached Microsoft about building software to help mine data for the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative, a network of private and public cameras and other tools monitored by the department's counter-

911: SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE

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WEST 34 STREET, BROADWAY - NOT AVA

This Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 photo shows a detail of a video wall showing New York city police officers an interactive map of the area, security footage from nearby cameras, if there are high radiation levels and whether any other threats have been made in New York.

Associated Press

the NYPD's involvement could set the dashboard apart.

"This is the kind of stuff you used to only see in movies,"

terrorism bureau. Development cost the department between \$30 million and \$40 million, officials said. "Usually, you purchase

software that you try to work with, but we wanted this to be something that really worked well for us, so we set about creating it with them," said Richard Daddario, the NYPD's deputy commissioner for counterterrorism.

Officers were involved throughout the process with the programmers, offering advice on what they need during an emergency.

"It was created by cops for cops," Tisch said.

"We thought a lot about what information we want up close and personal, and what needs to be a click away. It's all baked in there."

The system uses hundreds of thousands of pieces of information. Security camera footage can be rewound five minutes so that officers can see suspects who may have fled. Sensors pick up whether a bag has been left sitting for a while. When an emergency call comes in, officers can check prior calls from that address to see what they might be up against. Prospective clients can customize it to fit their organization.

Dave Mosher, a Microsoft vice president in charge of program management, said the company started to market the system in August and is looking at smaller municipalities,

law enforcement agencies and companies that handle major sporting events. He would not say whether any clients have been lined up and would not give details on the price except to say that it would depend on how much customization must be done.

Shawn McCarthy, an analyst with the research firm IDC, described the partnership — and outcome — as unusual in the tech world.

"I see huge potential, but so much depends on the price and competition," he said.

No firm timetable has been set on when the dashboard will be rolled out to the entire 34,000-officer department. □